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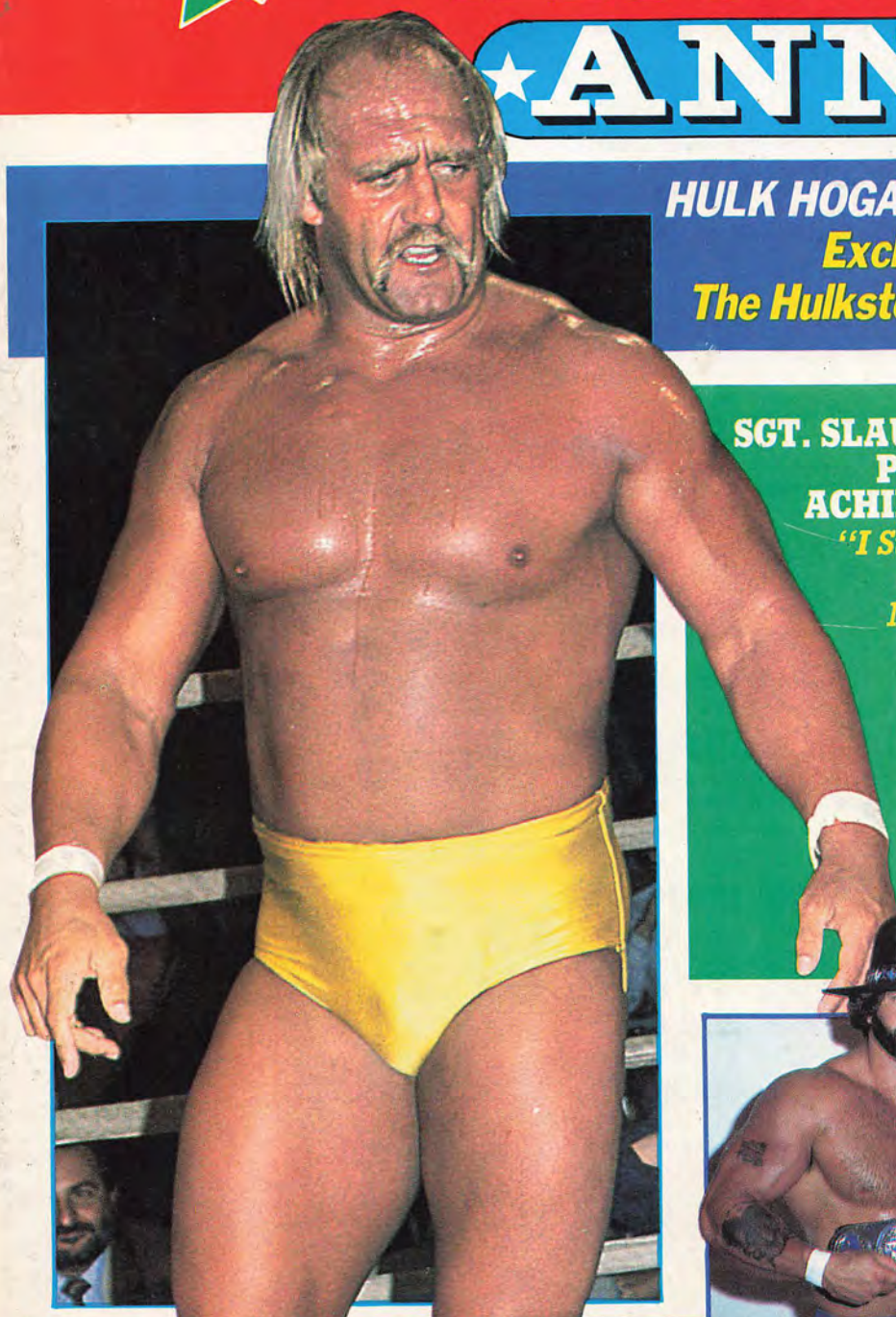

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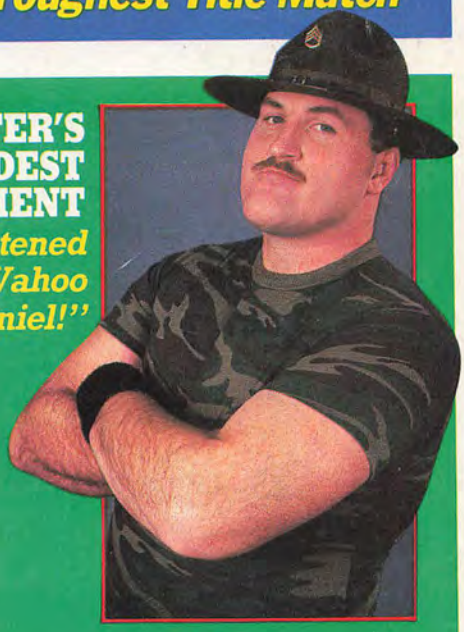

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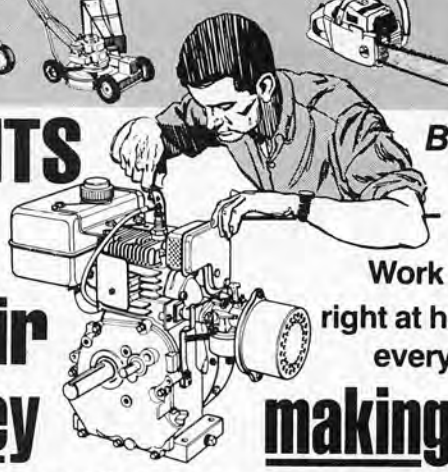

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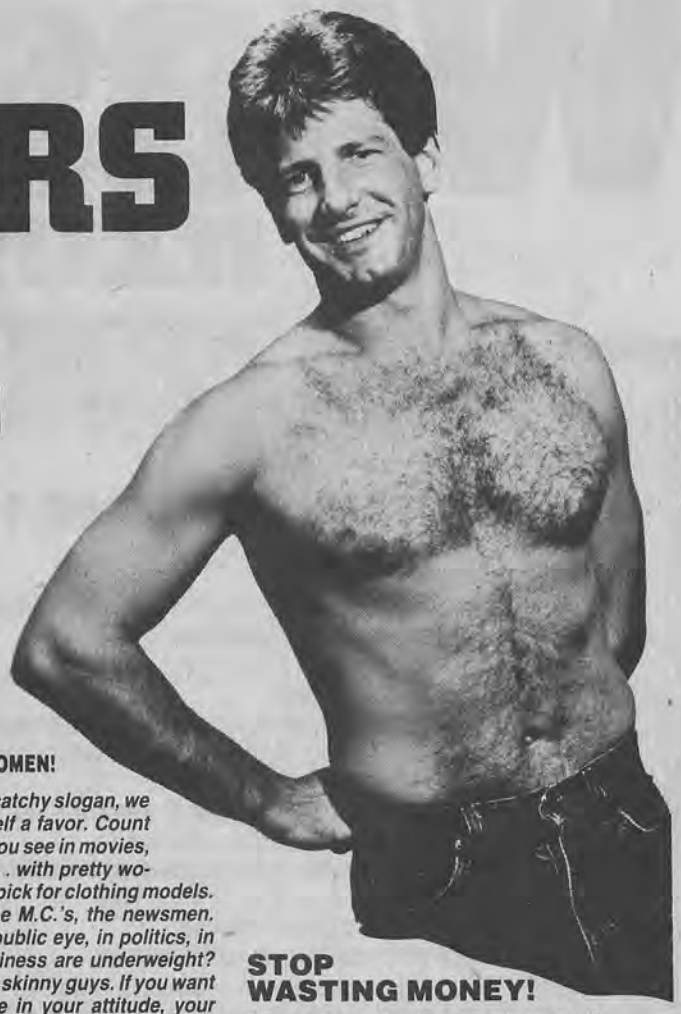

It wasn't easy until now!

That's what so many men are saying after using *ShapeUp*, the marvelous, new compound, especially formulated by nutritionists, sports dietitians and biochemists for the sole purpose of helping men to more healthful, sturdier and better developed bodies.

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Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with ShapeUp *working for you.*

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL

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Recently, I came across a fairly new way to make big bux, but after a thorough study I discarded it because it required too much investment of time, money and personal effort. But my study did serve as inspiration to develop yet another fantastic and unusual wallet-fattener — **something that until now has never been done** — yet fully complies with the tough set of standards I'm noted for demanding of *any* potential wealth-producing concept:

- Must be able to be started with **minimum investment**
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- Must be able to be started and **run initially by one man or woman**
- Must require only a **few hours of spare time per week**
- Must have realistic annual profit potential of **$40,000 or more**

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- Start at once — **within 30 seconds** of studying my report
- Invest **not a single cent**
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- Have a potential **net profit** (not gross ... **net!**) of $100,000.00 by the end of 90 days — tops. And that's **cash**, not theoretical or paper profits.

Naturally, you're wondering what all this is — but I'm not going to tell you here. No, it's going to cost you ten smackers to find out. But I will tell you what it *isn't* so you'll not be off on some wild goose chase:

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- ★ No catalogs, mailing lists, postage, etc.
- ★ No equipment to buy or rent
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For the past two decades Du Vall has captured the imagination of men and women the world over by providing solid, unique direction for their quest for financial freedom. His firm is headquartered in Michigan with international marketing offices in Hong Kong (known as DAX International, John W. Lane, President). In addition to producing some three dozen publications on money-making/self-improvement themes, DuVall is also the creator of the popular Derek Dax adventure/mystery/romance series and the author of the political intrigue novel, "The Big Dream" (published by Lyle Stuart, Inc., New York). Unlike most, he has never had to resort to outlandish money-back guarantees to attract only the finest DAX-DOERS world-wide and no such policy is expressed or implied.

His writings have been used in numerous style and content workshops and accredited courses at such institutions as California State University, UCLA, Fordham, University of Illinois and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

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We have over 10,000 'tasty testimonials' from housewives, doctors, lawyers, layed-off factory workers—all sorts of good people. These excerpts sum up their feelings:

"Thanks a million times . . . you have proved 100% accurate in what you said in your advertisement. Doing this work is so easy! I sometimes work while in bed. Should you come up with another ingenious thing, please let me know.
Mohidin Mohammed, Sweden

"We are so impressed . . . have our 13 and 16 year olds involved . . . thanks for giving our family new hope."
MacClear Family, Indiana

". . . man in economically depressed area left $35,000 secure job to put this method to work . . . made $120,000. First man I've ever met who really made money on idea purchased through mail." David Roman, Editor, ROMAN REPORTS, Ohio

WHAT TO DO NOW

You've got two choices:

1. Put this ad aside, wait 90 days or so and perhaps lose your chance at $100,000.

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A few months back in our DAX MONEY-MAKER® CONFIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER, we reported on another business that can easily net $1,000 a week for life. It's a bit more involved and does require getting out and about, but our readers were so delighted with it that I'm including it as an extra **free bonus** when you order our new special DAX report, "$100,000 in 90 Days."

2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

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INTRODUCTION

Rick Martel receives congratulations from Verne Gagne after winning the AWA title from Jumbo Tsuruta in May 1984. On the anniversary of his title victory, Rick Martel discusses his career, beginning on page 10.

Dusty Rhodes might have won the NWA championship had it not been for the officiating of former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier.

THE COVER DATE on this issue may read "Spring 1986," but you may have it as early as December. And what better present to give yourself, or the wrestling fan on your holiday gift list, than the collection of stories in this edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual.*

We begin this time around with a "Press Conference" with AWA World heavyweight champion Rick Martel (page 10) that originally appeared in our July 1985 issue. In an era where such surface elements as flashiness in speech and stylishness in dress draw such attention, Martel is content to let his actions in the ring do his speaking for him. With the AWA world title around his waist, Martel is a most eloquent spokesman indeed!

Our February 1985 edition took a very different look at the manager of The Road Warriors. "Precious Paul Ellering: If I Had A Manager Like Me, I'd Be Champion!" (page 14) demonstrated that the leader of The Legion of Doom is as capable a wrestler as he is a manager. The only factor holding Ellering back, however, is the fact knows he'll never be able to find a manager of his caliber to guide his career.

With Starrcade '85 recently passed into the history books by the time you read this, we felt it most appropriate that we should take a look back on Starrcade '84. That match was covered in our April 1985 issue in the feature "Million-Dollar Controversy: Did Ric Flair Really Beat Dusty Rhodes At Starrcade '84?" (page 18).

Since our April 1985 issue and the story "Gorgeous Jim Garvin: Tailor-Made For The AWA" (page 22), Garvin had left the AWA for a brief time only to learn that in fact the headline was true. With the ever-present Precious in tow, the Gorgeous one has returned to the AWA to continue his campaign against AWA champion Rick Martel.

Back in our October 1982 edition, we printed a story entitled "Dusty Rhodes vs. Roddy Piper: Last Chance For Georgia Wrestling" (page 26). Reading this story over again today only gives one a stronger impression and understanding of the changes

(Continued on page 58)

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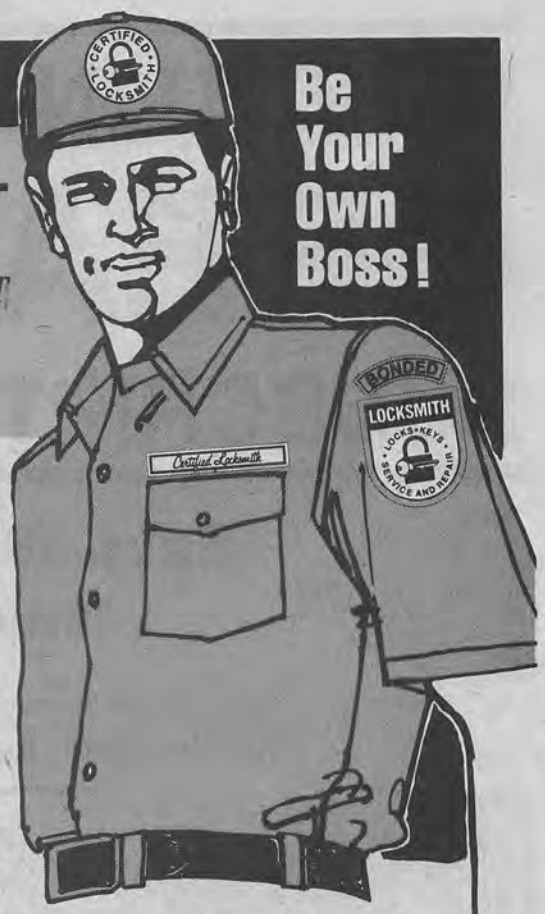

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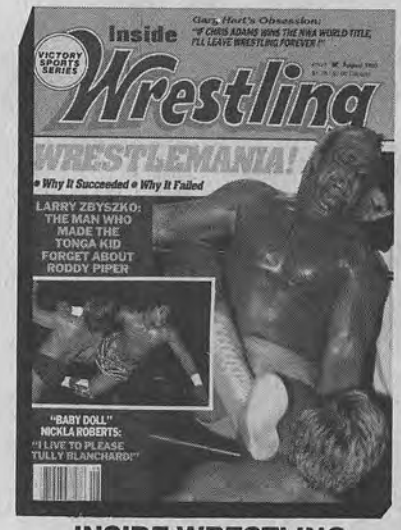
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"BABY DOLL" NICKLA ROBERTS: "I LIVE TO PLEASE TULLY BLANCHARD!"

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Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

PRESS CONFERENCE
RICK MARTEL

Martel secures a headlock on former AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel. Rick will defend his belt against a wide variety of opponents.

Rick Martel has been called many things.

When he was paired in the WWF with Tony Garea in the early 1980s, he was called one half of the greatest scientific tag team the sport has ever seen.

Later on, when Martel entered the AWA as a singles wrestler, he was called one of the most promising young athletes the AWA has ever seen.

Now, as his first anniversary as AWA World heavyweight champion approaches, Martel is being hailed as one of the greatest scientific champions of all time.

Rick Martel is a remarkable man. Since winning the AWA title from Jumbo Tsuruta on May 13, 1984, in St. Paul, Minnesota, Martel has been keenly aware of the fact that a champion is only as good as the opponents he defends against. And so Martel has defended his title with determination against scientific and rulebreaking opponents alike: Nick Bockwinkel, Bob Backlund, Brad Rheingans, Billy Robinson, Jim Garvin, and Jumbo Tsuruta are just a few of the opponents Martel has faced as champion.

Senior Editor Bill Apter, Associate Editor Craig Peters, and Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner spoke with Martel prior to a recent title defense in Minneapolis.

(Continued on page 12)

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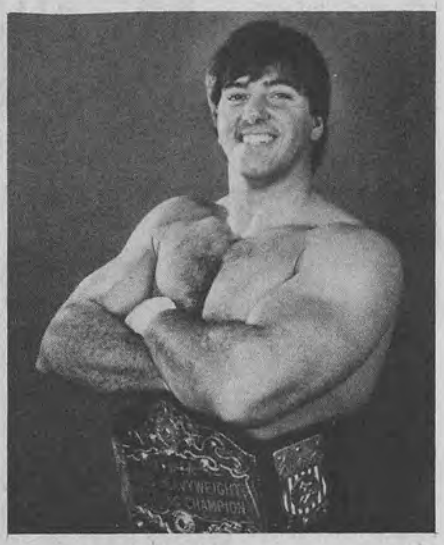
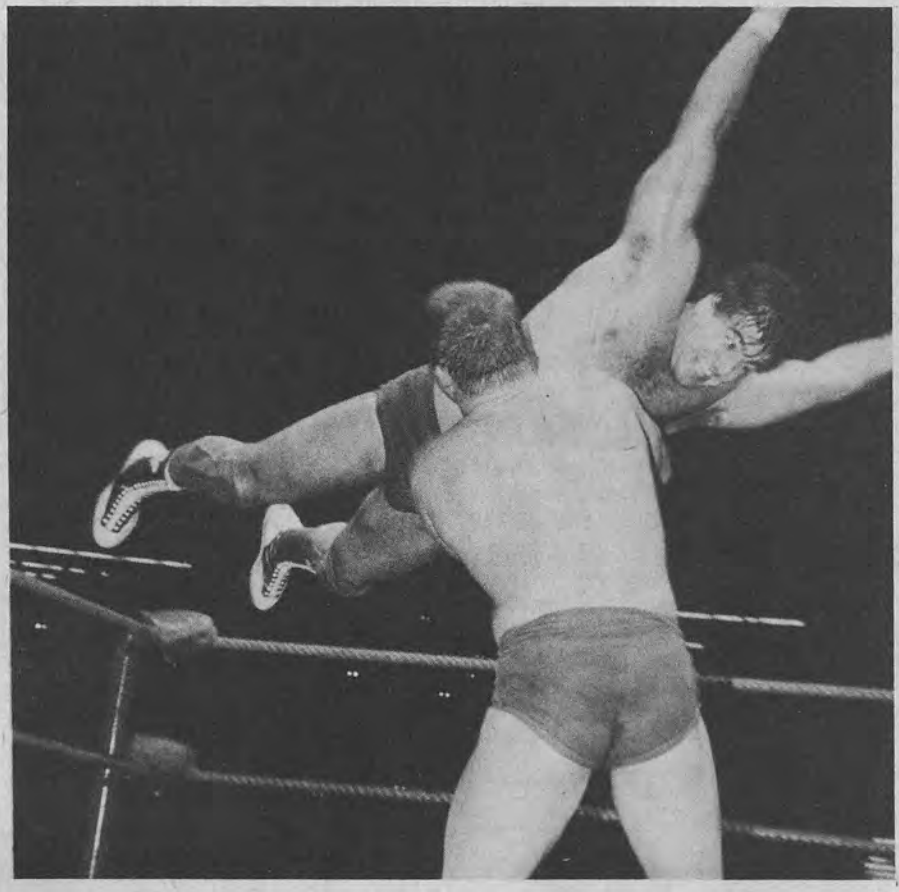
Press Conference

(Continued from page 10)



"I'm the kind of wrestler who worries more about wrestling than about my visibility in the rock 'n' roll world or fancy nightclubs. I like to think of myself as a working champion."



A soaring Martel catches Bob Backlund with a flying bodypress during their classic scientific encounter in February.

BILL APTER: Can you believe that it's almost a full year since you won the AWA World title, Rick?

RICK MARTEL: **No, I really can't, Bill. I look back on the past year, and so much has happened so fast, it's really amazing. It seems like maybe a month I've been champion but you're right, it's almost a year. Wow!**

EDDIE ELLNER: When you look back on that year, what do you think were your greatest achievements as champion?

MARTEL: **I don't know, it's hard to say. I think—well, I don't want to sound too egotistical, but I tried to bring a certain amount of respect back to the AWA World title, you know what I mean? I tried to make it a title that people can be proud of.**

CRAIG PETERS: As opposed to when Nick Bockwinkel held the title?

MARTEL: **Well, as opposed to that, and as opposed to other champions in wrestling today. You know, someone like Ric Flair—I respect Ric Flair for**

(Continued on page 48)

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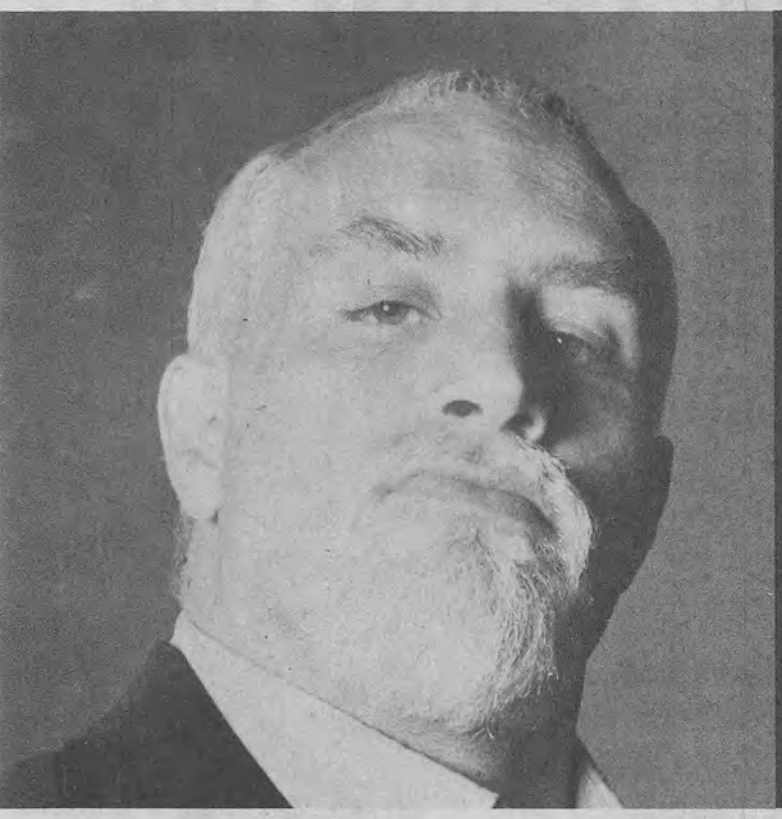


Precious Paul Ellering: "IF I HAD A MANAGER LIKE ME, I'D BE CHAMPION!"

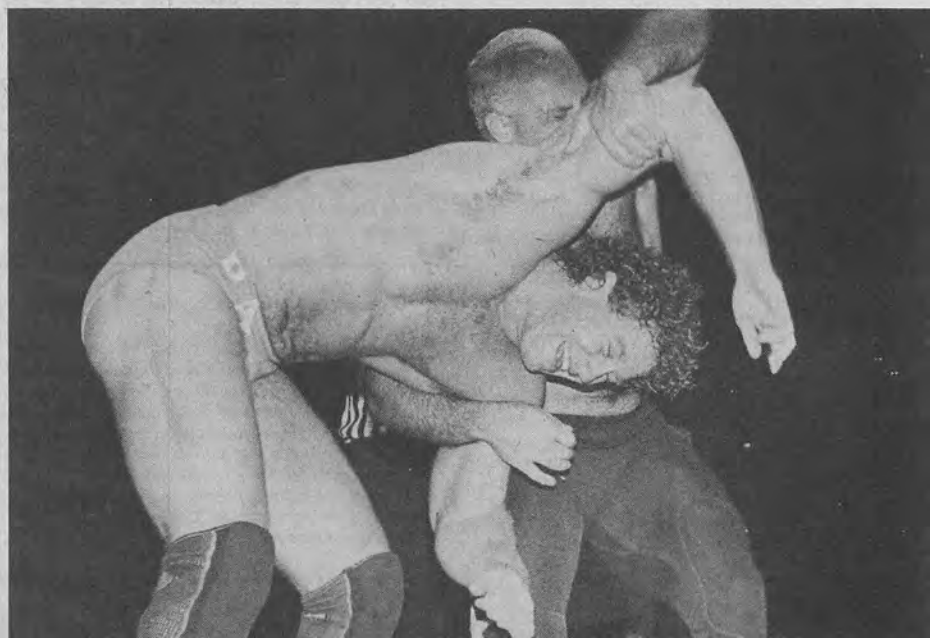
Answering the challenge of Brad Armstrong, Precious Paul Ellering donned the wrestling tights once again in Atlanta's Omni. It was a rare foray into active wrestling for the man who engineers the activities of The Legion of Doom. As Ellering writes in this exclusive article, he could someday become champion . . . if he only had another manager like himself!

By Paul Ellering

HOW APPROPRIATE THAT the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* would deign to have the world's most successful wrestling manager author a major piece of analysis for the most discerning wrestling fans in the world to peruse and ponder.

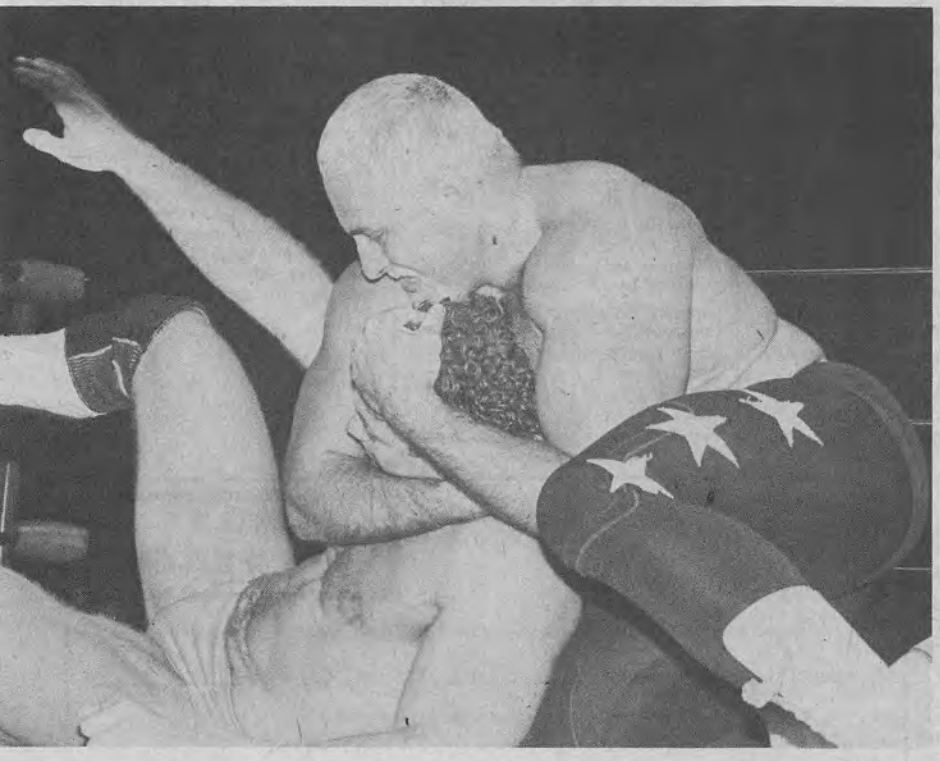
I have been told by the editors of this magazine that the subject of this essay is to be my recent match with Brad Armstrong in Atlanta's Omni.

That's good. I have a lot to say about that match, and about the implications of that match. And I'm glad that the editors were wise enough to come to me instead of



Photos by Emmy Yates

Ellering cannot understand why the referee isn't counting a pin against Armstrong, whose foot is under the ropes (above). Precious Paul attempts to put Armstrong away with a sleeperhold (below). Armstrong tries to escape Ellering's attempted backslide (opposite page).



having some second-rate journalist in an office in New York write about the match from some third-hand account of that match.

You know, when I sit back and look at some of the other men in this sport who call themselves "managers," I have to feel a certain sense of pride in myself. And this pride, I might add, is wholly justified.

I would not want to downgrade the intellectual skills of such strategic masters of the ring as Jimmy Hart, James J. Dillon, Gary Hart, Sir Oliver Humperdink, or Paul Jones. But allow me to state the issue in the most straightforward, simple terms: How many of these men that I have named, and others like them, are capable of stepping back into the ring and displaying the level of physical excellence and wrestling expertise that I do?

In 1976, I held *both* the national weightlifting championship and the NCAA championship. I set a world record of 745.3 pounds in the dead lift. And I have maintained my power and physique since then. Indeed, I have refined and improved myself in ways too numerous to list here.

So when an individual of superficial significance such as Brad Armstrong beats his chest in an embarrassing display of pointless machismo and tosses a gauntlet before me, I laugh. I don't have to worry about training for a match. My training began long before my championship weightlifting days. Long before Brad Armstrong even learned how to throw the substandard drop-

(Continued from page 52)

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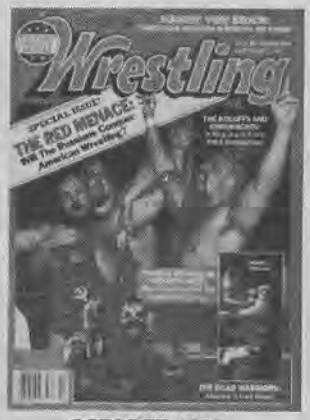

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October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

INSIDE WRESTLING

☐ JULY 74	☐ OCT 77	☐ APR 80	☐ AUG 82	☐ JUNE 84
☐ AUG 74	☐ NOV 77	☐ MAY 80	☐ SEPT 82	☐ JULY 84
☐ SEPT 74	☐ DEC 77	☐ JUNE 80	☐ OCT 82	☐ AUG 84
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January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

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July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

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January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino,

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

AUGUST 1985

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

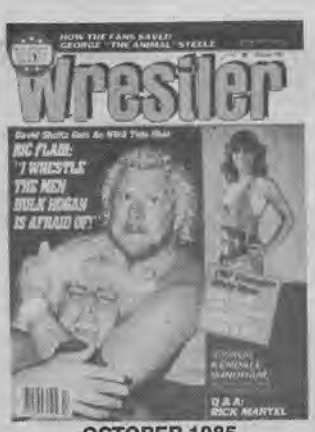
May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.



OCTOBER 1985

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

THE WRESTLER

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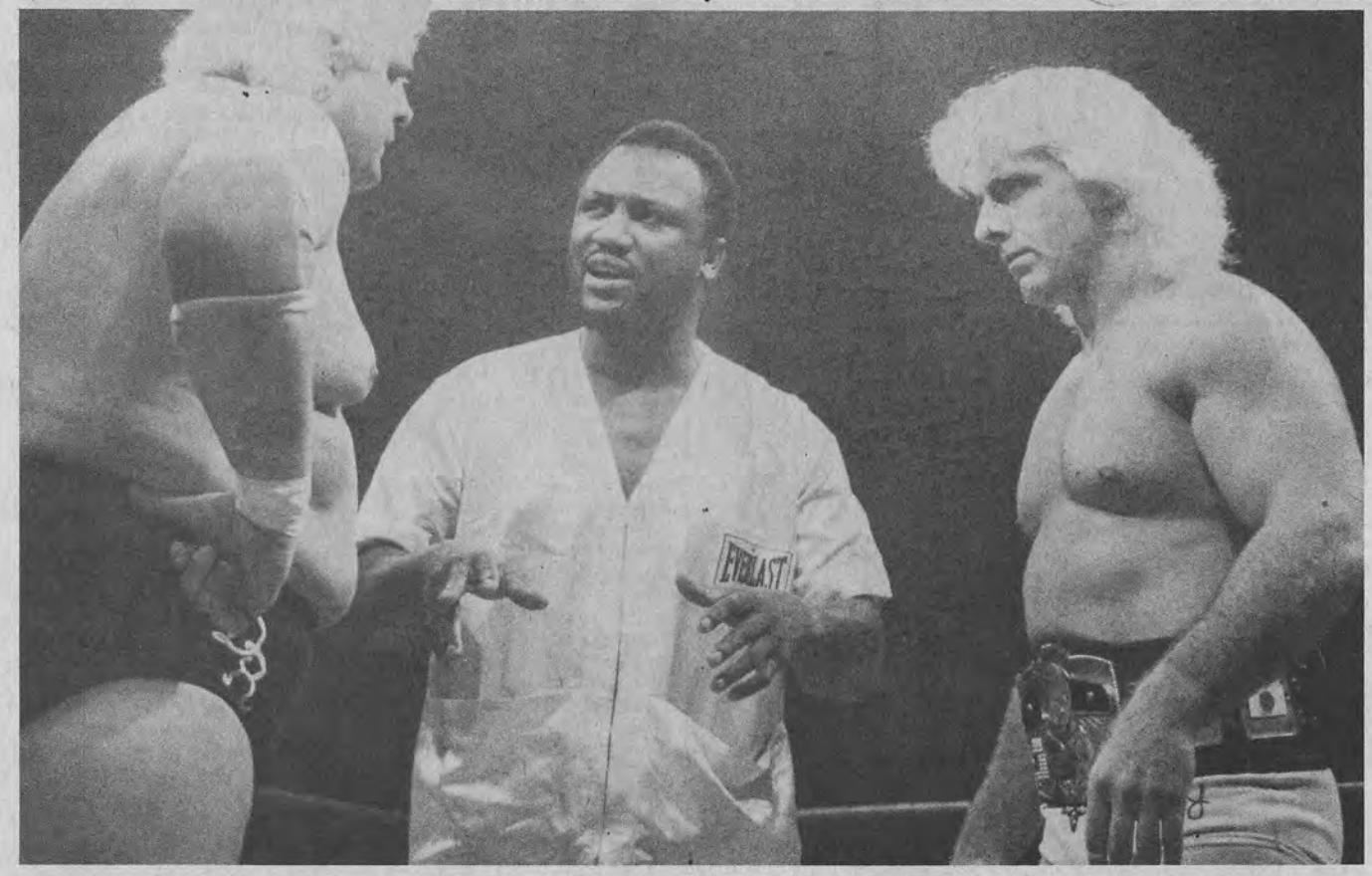


DID RIC FLAIR *REALLY* BEAT DUSTY RHODES AT STARRCADE '84?

In all of wrestling history, no match has ever had higher stakes: $1 million in cash plus the NWA World heavyweight title. Dusty Rhodes and Ric Flair were the competitors. But many of those in the Greensboro Coliseum on Thanksgiving night—particularly Rhodes—feel that special referee Joe Frazier stopped the contest long before the match was truly over

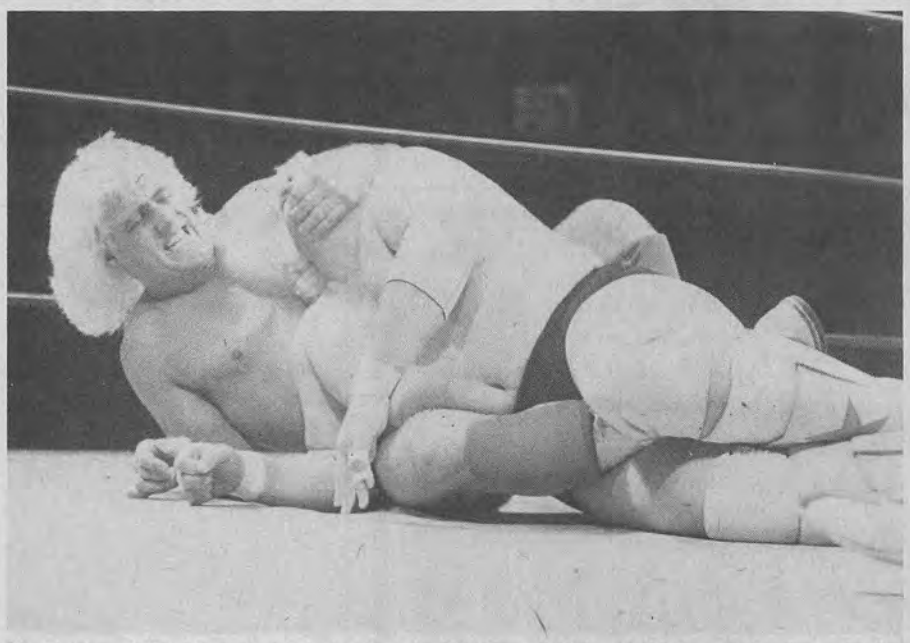
RIC FLAIR STOOD in the center of the ring with his fists raised, anxious to move out against Dusty Rhodes. Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier motioned for Flair to unclench his fists and return to his corner.

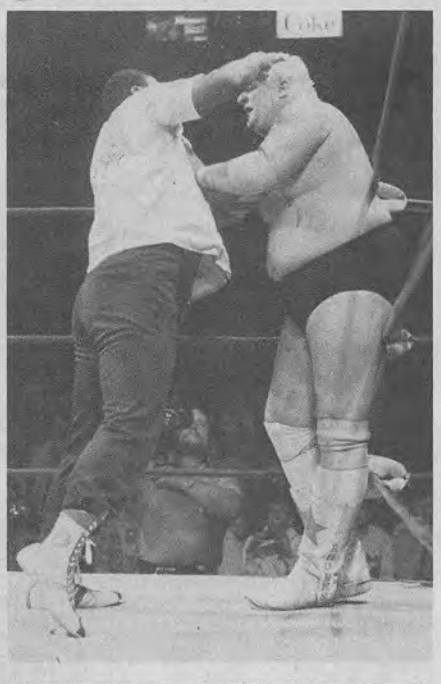
Flair didn't like it, but he complied. He knew very well that his title was on the line, and that Rhodes was more than capable of taking it from him. And he knew that the winner of this match would go home $1 million richer.

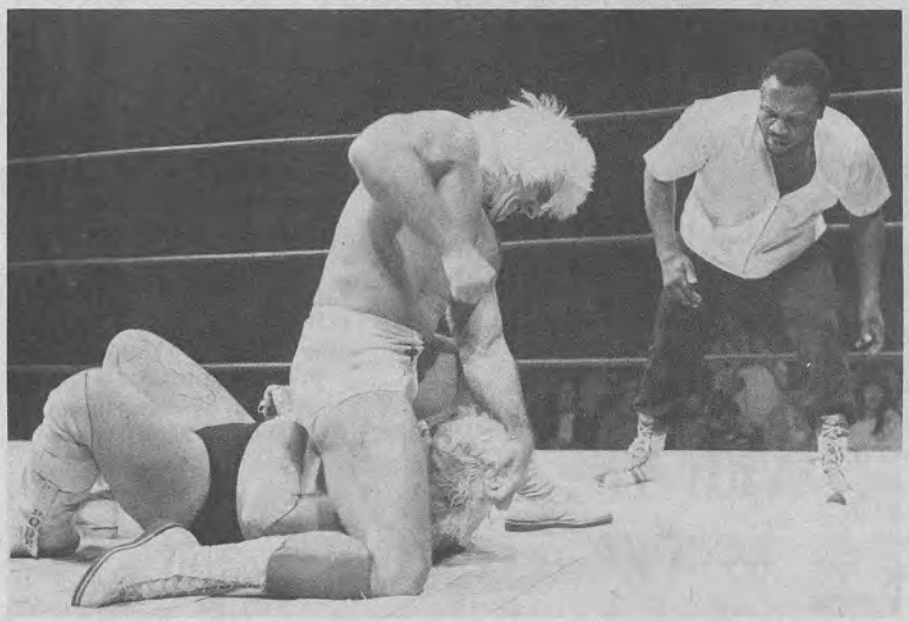
Flair returned to his corner; he didn't want to risk disqualification.

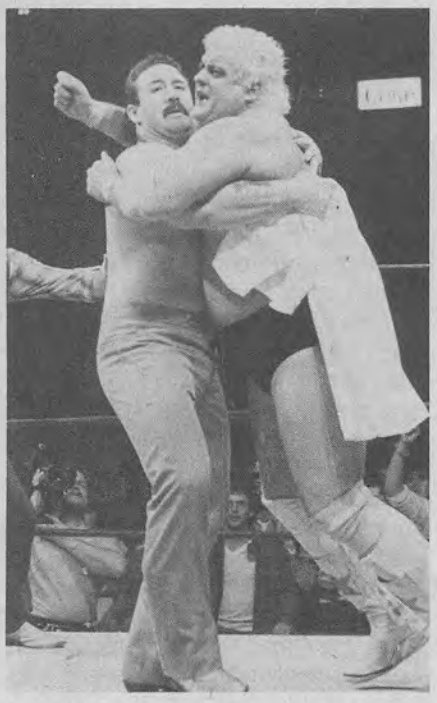
Frazier turned his back on Flair and addressed his attention to Rhodes, who was bleeding profusely from a cut over the right eye. As Frazier examined the cut, Flair moved out of his corner, instinctively on the attack, wanting to continue the match and finish off Rhodes for

Photos by Bill Apter & Floyd See









Joe Frazier, giving his prematch instructions to Rhodes and Flair, would be a major factor in the outcome of the match (opposite left). Flair grabs the advantage (above) and opens a deep gash over Rhodes' right eye (below). Smokin' Joe examines the cut (above right). Manny Fernandez consoles his tag team partner after the match is stopped in Flair's favor (below right).

good.

"Hold it right there, Flair!" barked Frazier. "Back in your corner."

Again Flair complied. And again Frazier examined Rhodes' eye, determining whether or not to allow the match to continue.

"Okay you guys, let's wrestle!"

Flair moved in aggressively, flipping Rhodes to the mat and straddling his chest as he delivered a series of closed-fist blows to Dusty's head. Frazier kept a close watch on the action, looking at every blow with a measured eye, assessing the damage of each smash to the head.

The match had been fairly even up to this point. Rhodes had gained the early advantage with a bionic elbow to the side of Flair's head, and had followed up with a strong headlock. Flair escaped that headlock, flipped Rhodes to the mat, and caught "The American Dream" in a figure-four leglock.

But Rhodes managed to reverse the hold, and Flair was again at a disadvantage. And when Flair moved to the top rope for a flying elbow-smash, Rhodes moved in and slammed the NWA champion to the mat. Flair was in trouble, and though he successfully managed to capture Rhodes in a sleeperhold, it was weakly applied. Flair's only chance of regaining the edge would be to maneuver Rhodes through the ropes and force the action to the arena

(Continued on page 46)

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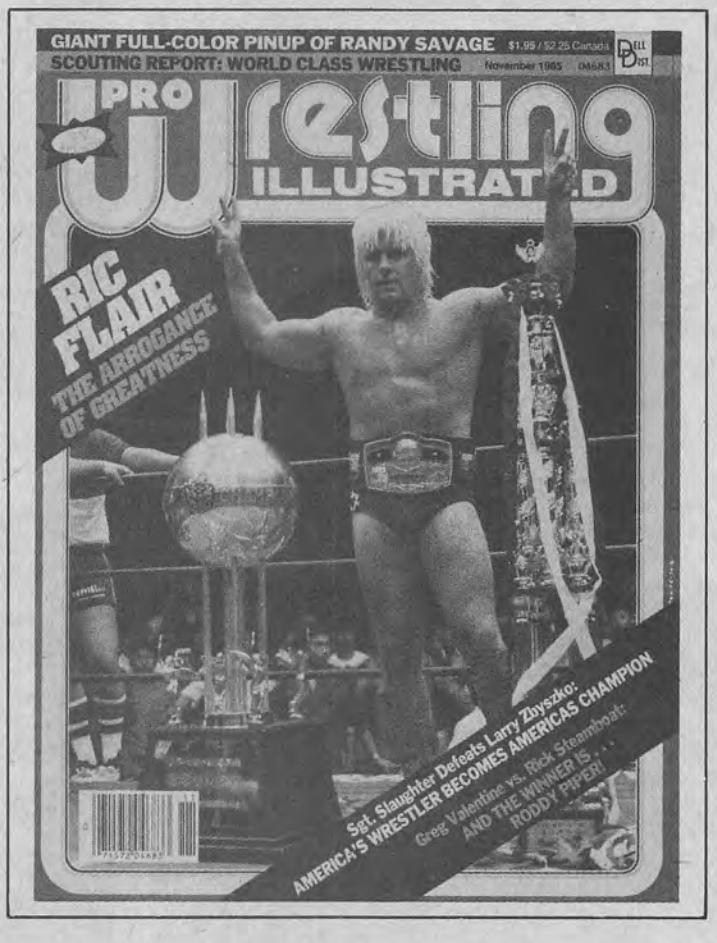
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"GORGEOUS" JIM GARVIN:

TAILOR-MADE FOR THE AWA!

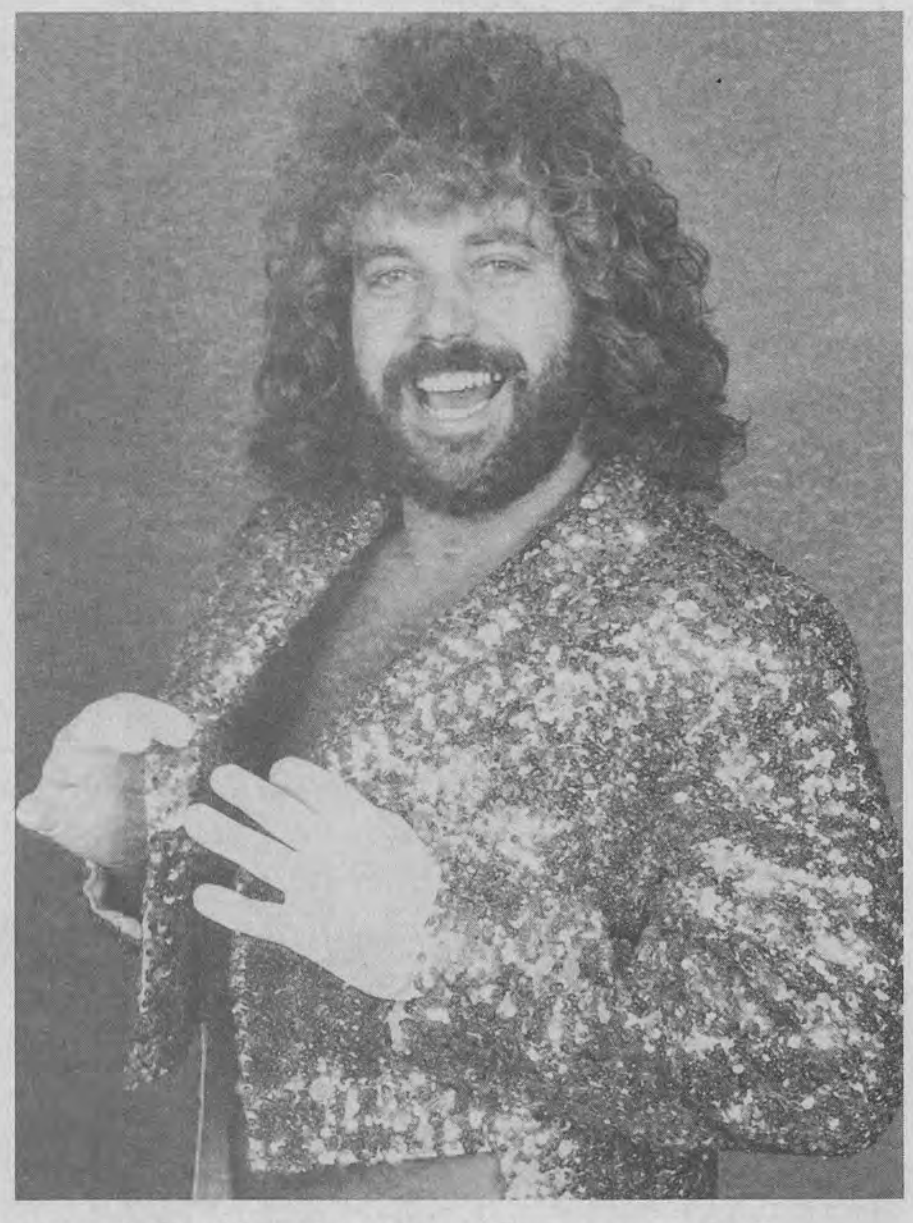
TRY TO REMEMBER the first time you went shopping for clothes with your mother. She'd send you into the dressing room with something and she'd say something like "Come out and let me see how it looks."

So, you got all dressed and walked out into the store. Mom would fuss with this sleeve, or that pant leg, and when she was satisfied, she'd push you in front of a mirror.

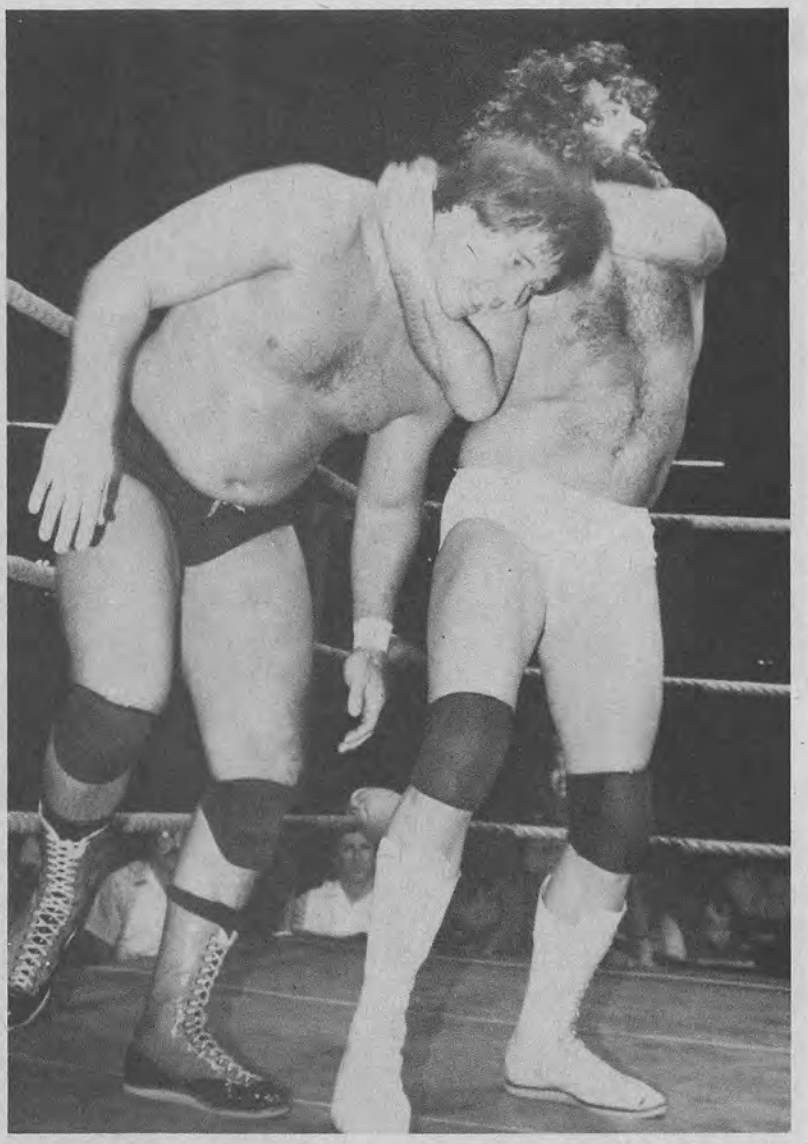
"A perfect fit," she'd say, and you couldn't argue with her. The clothes didn't look particularly good, but they were practical and they *did* fit. But you know if you went to school wearing the stuff, your friends would rank on you all day. It wouldn't be too much fun.

That's how AWA wrestling audiences have been feeling ever since "Gorgeous" Jim Garvin invaded their local arenas. The fans have been looking for a wrestler to give AWA World champion Rick Martel a good series of matches. Garvin, coming off a successful tour of Japan, has run up an impressive winning streak since arriving in the region. The fans know that Garvin is a necessity, just like the clothes mom selected, but they aren't happy about having him in the area.

For example, a crowd of fans in an arena in Wisconsin stood dumbstruck



They've never seen anything like it before. Gorgeous Jim Garvin, with his valet Precious and sequined ring attire in tow, has entered the AWA like a gale-force wind. He has sailed to the top of the ratings, and only World champion Rick Martel stands between him and his ultimate goal



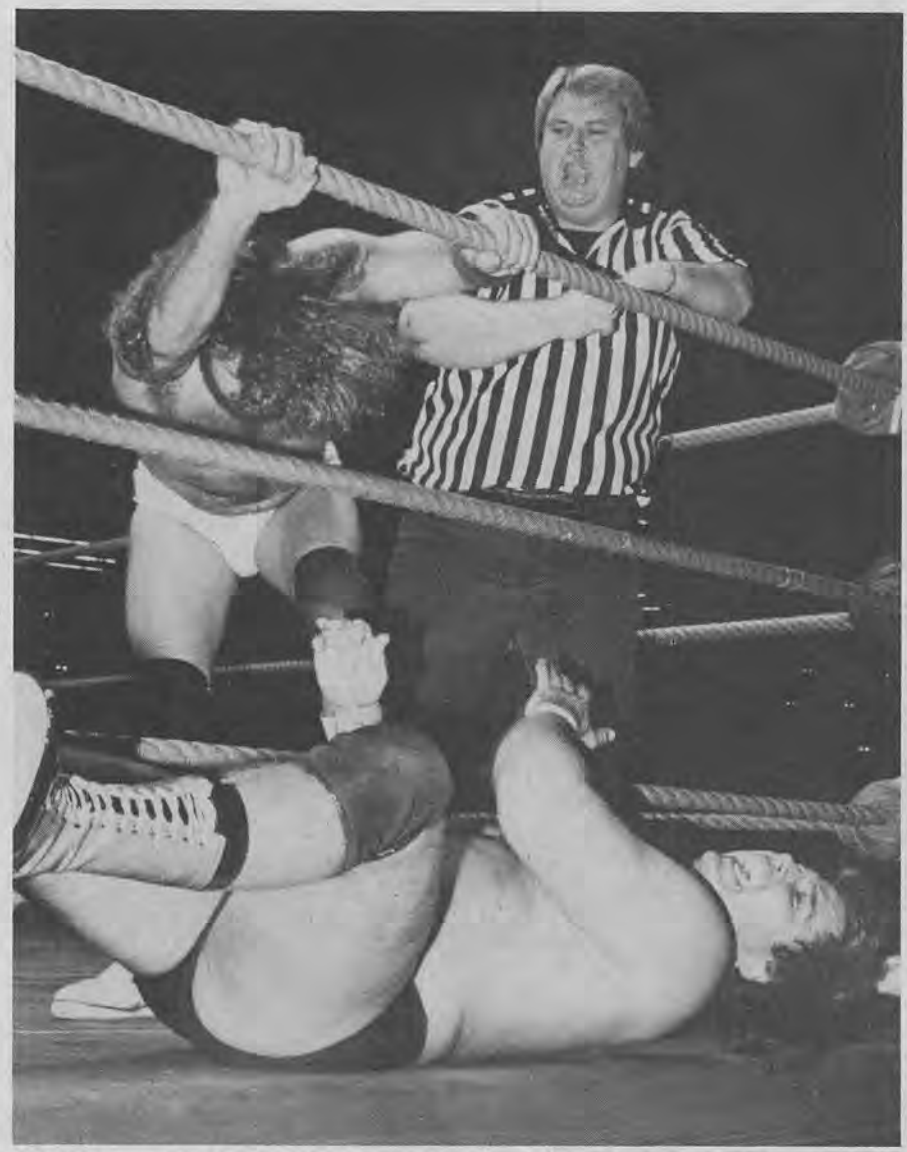
AWA fans don't quite know what to make of Garvin and his valet, Precious (above). Garvin does a little choking on Tom Zenk before snapmaring him (right). Gorgeous Jim's camel clutch has Zenk in great pain (below).

as Garvin, wearing a bright red sequined jack, accompanied by his ever-present valet Precious, made his grand entrance into the arena, walked down the aisle, and climbed through the ring ropes.

He then stood in the center of the ring as Precious stood before him and went through a series of muscle poses for the crowd. Precious removed Garvin's jacket and white gloves, sprayed him with an atomizer of cologne, and fixed his hair before she left the ring.

It was a spectacle unlike most of these fans had seen before. "These people are used to a different kind of wrestler," said his evening's opponent, Brad Rheingans. "They're used to just regular people, like me I guess, who don't make a big deal about getting in and out of the ring. I know that I personally would feel a little foolish calling attention to myself like that."

Photos by Bruce Krietzman



Garvin has moved quickly through AWA competition and into the number one challenger's position for Rick Martel's AWA World title. Of course, his quick rise has been aided by his disregard for the rulebook. Here, he ignores the referee's order to cease his attack against Steve O.

Then again, Brad Rheingans and Jim Garvin are two entirely different people. "Most of the wrestlers I've talked to look at wrestling as a job," Rheingans said, "kind of like a plumber or a construction worker looks at their jobs. Sure, we get more attention for doing our jobs than they do, but that's the only difference. If there were popular magazines and TV shows about plumbing or construction work, they would be the celebrities, and we'd be seeing them on TV and reading about them. I'm not into the celebrity thing, though, not like Garvin. Garvin loves it! It's a performance for him, like he's on Broadway! He's on some ego trip."

Ego is a large part of Garvin's makeup, but anyone, fan or wrestler, who has seen Garvin wrestle since his entrance into the area will not deny his ability to win. With victories over Tom Zenk, Steve O, Curt Hennig, and other AWA stars, Garvin has earned the number one spot in the AWA ratings behind champion Martel.

Equally as impressive is that Garvin has managed to knock former champion Nick Bockwinkel out of the number one contender's position, a spot he has held almost exclusively since losing the belt to Jumbo Tsuruta last February.

"Hey, the AWA fans have just been begging the promoters for someone like me for years," Garvin said as Precious packed his wrestling gear up at the end of the evening. "I was in Japan and [promoter] Wally Karbo called and offered to buy out every contract I signed with the Japanese promoters if I would come back and wrestle in the AWA.

"But I didn't know what to do, ya see? They love me in Japan. Everybody loves me in Japan. And Precious here, they went crazy over her," he said, motioning toward his valet as she sat down in front of a mirror and began playing with her hair. "They wanted to put her in movies. But then we started thinking about it and she probably would've had to share billing with Godzilla or Mothra. I've never seen a Japanese movie without some monster in it, have you? So we said no to the Japanese movie deal. If they love her, America will love her, too. Precious is on her way to becoming the next Meryl Streep. If that bimbo can make movies, Precious here can become a legend."

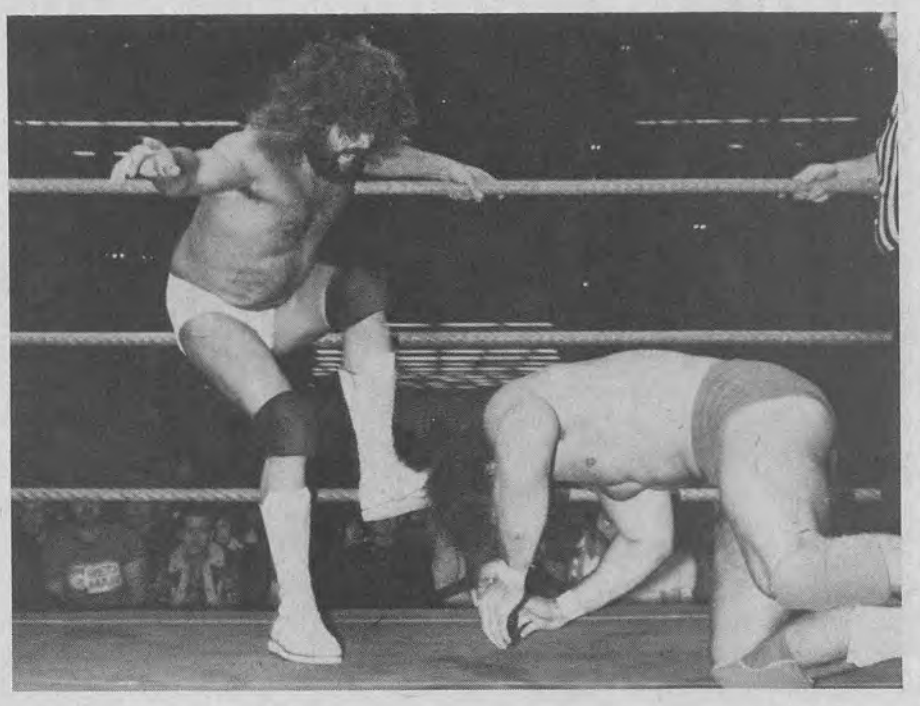
In fact, Garvin's claim that Karbo called him in Japan is a truthful one. "It was time to introduce a new kind of wrestler to the AWA," the veteran promoter said. "Jim Garvin is definitely the state-of-the-art 1980s wrestler. And for that reason I'm glad that I signed him. It's time for these fans to experience Jim Garvin."

"But," Karbo said without a pause, "he's the most arrogant, egotistical—well, he's not easy to deal with, let's put it that way. I would never choose the man as a friend. I don't like him, and I also don't approve of his tactics in the ring, but he is a success. And that's what I deal in, success.

"When I'm looking for wrestlers to sign for matches," Karbo said, "I care mostly about is his record and his ability to attract a crowd. And ultimately, I'm always looking for opponents for AWA World champion Rick Martel. What good is having a champion if there's no one for him to wrestle, right? And a champion is only as good as the men he defeats."

Garvin has indeed been successful, and his title shot is almost assured. But most notable of his current AWA campaign is the excessive degree of trickery and deception he has used in the victories over top AWA stars on his way to the number one ranking.

Steve O did well against Garvin, executing a backdrop (right), but he was done in by Gorgeous Jim's rulebreaking. The referee is unaware that Garvin's pin attempt against Steve O is illegal (above). Garvin holds the ropes and viciously stomps young Zenk (below).

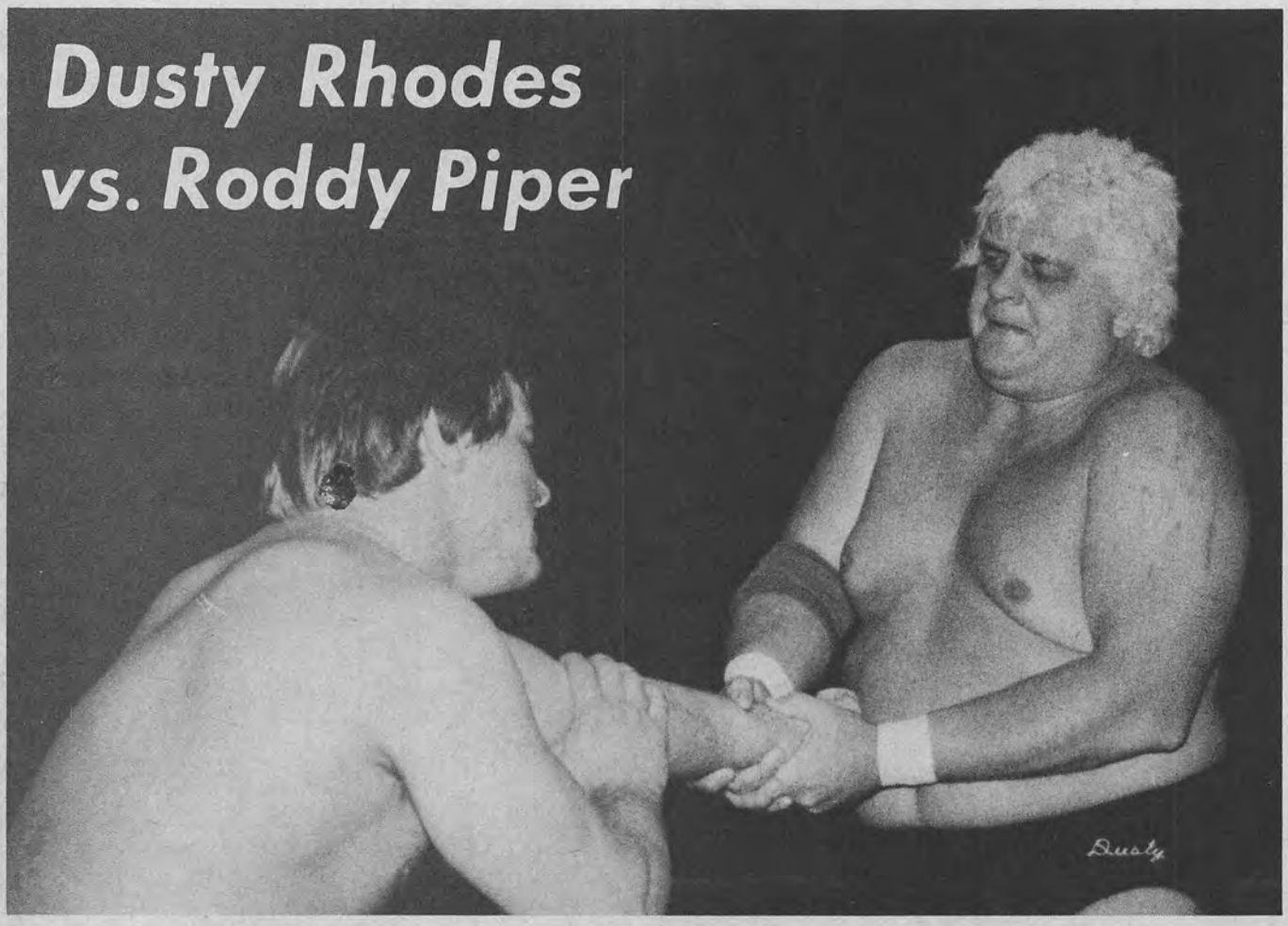


"I should have won that match," Olsonowski said after losing to Garvin at the St. Paul Civic Center. "He killed me with illegal tactics. Every headlock was a choke. Every hold I got on the guy was broken by a pull of the trunks. Look at my eyes. He gouged the life outta them. I wouldn't be surprised if he didn't use one legitimate hold the whole time we were in the ring together. And his cute little valet is just part of the distraction so he can

use all his tricks. He doesn't deserve his ranking."

The fact remains that Garvin has made his way to the number one ranking in the AWA, and the fact that he got there through the back door of rulebreaking tactics makes him no less of a challenger. Another fact to note is that Martel, despite a fine title reign, has been criticized by his peers for lacking the aggressive quality that helps a wrestler combat the illegal maneuvers of an opponent like Garvin.

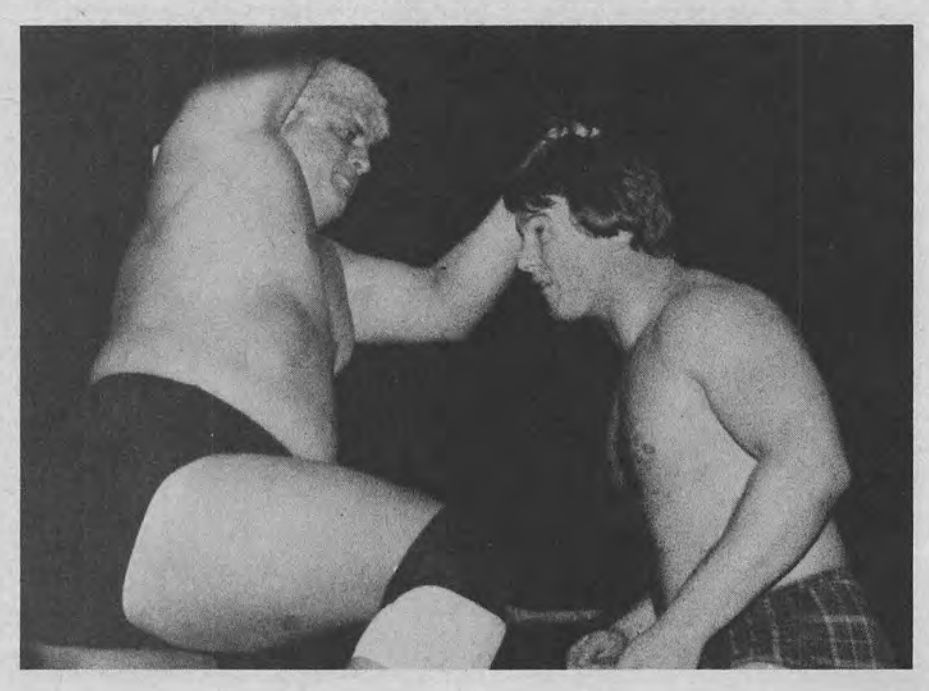
Can Martel battle Garvin's attack replete with illegal maneuvers, the distraction of Precious, and a surprisingly finely honed technique? Jim Garvin might not only be tailor-made for the AWA, he just might be a perfect fit for the AWA World title belt as well. □



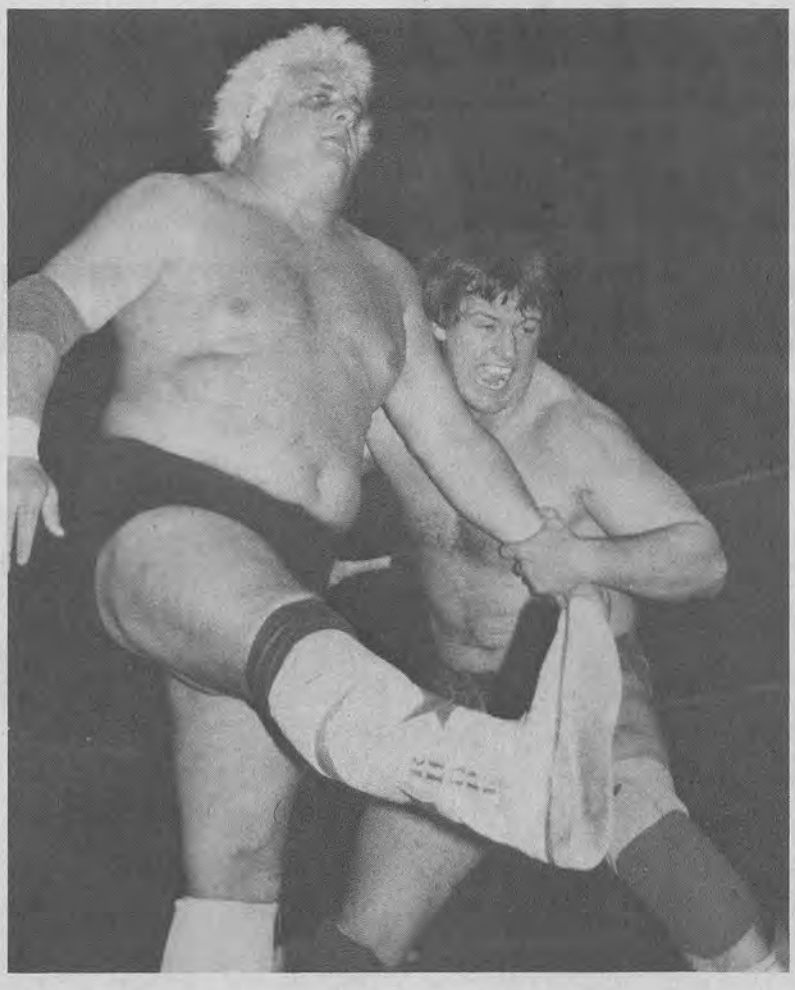
LAST CHANCE FOR GEORGIA WRESTLING?

THERE ARE JUST so many times a man can be hero. Sooner or later, he tries too hard but not enough. Then he becomes a martyr, soon to become a memory.

Dusty Rhodes knows the risks. He's put his career on the line often enough and has flirted with disaster more times for people to think the two of them are going steady. Yet, Dusty Rhodes continues to take the risks because he promised himself he would.



If Dusty Rhodes can't do something about Roddy Piper, we just might have to get used to hearing the Scot's piercing voice.



Piper throws Rhodes into the ropes (left) and applies the sleeperhold as "The Dream" rebounds (above). Dusty managed to escape by maneuvering to the ropes.

Like a conquering Genghis Khan, Roddy Piper dominates and demoralizes Georgia wrestling. One man, Dusty Rhodes, is determined to stop him. If Rhodes fails, all hope is lost

Rhodes only explains when he's in a reflective mood, and then only to close friends. "It's impossible to make people understand," Rhodes says softly, "so I don't try. But I have a vision of what wrestling should be. And it's a beautiful vision, one that can keep you going through the bad times and make you realize there's something more important than yourself. This vision is so beautiful, that risking everything to achieve it is a small price to pay.

"It may sound corny, but I believe wrestling has a responsibility to America. As a sport, it should reflect the best this country stands for—justice, dignity, and decency. When people see a great wrestling match, they should feel just a little bit better about themselves.

"A friend once asked me why I have to always take the tough matches, try to show the real rats they can't control wrestling. Hell, if I didn't do that, I wouldn't be true to my vision. And a man without a vision is just taking up space."

Roddy Piper has heard Dusty's explanation for taking risks no other wrestler dares take.

"The first time I heard it," Piper sneers, "I laughed. My sides hurt from laughing so hard. Dusty Rhodes says he has a vision, says he must defend wrestling's honor, says he is willing to risk his career. What he doesn't say, but what he really means, is that he is stupid.

"Yes, stupid! This is a business. You're in it to make money, *if you're smart*. Dusty Rhodes is not smart. He doesn't plan, he doesn't think ahead. Now, I'm smart. I'm like a brilliant chess master. When I come into a territory, I know what I'm going to do and how I'll do it. I knew before I ever set foot into NWA territory how I'd take over the federation. And even someone as simple as

(Continued on page 56)

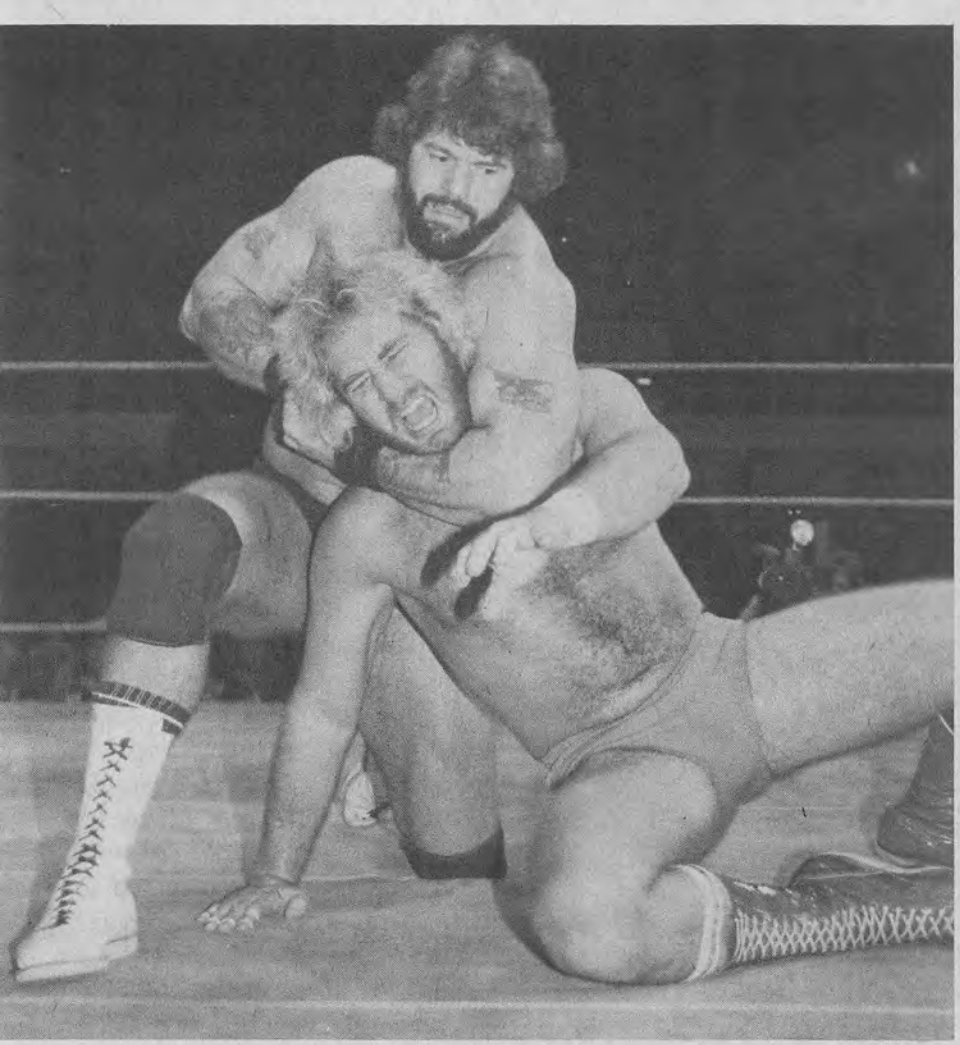
PHOTOS BY EDDIE CHESLOCK

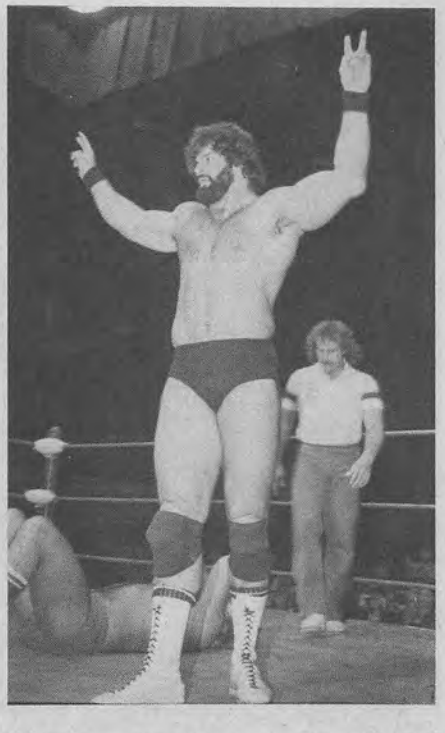
Kerry Von Erich & Billy Jack

THE DREAM TEAM FOR WRESTLING MAY BE A NIGHTMARE FOR THE VON ERICHS!

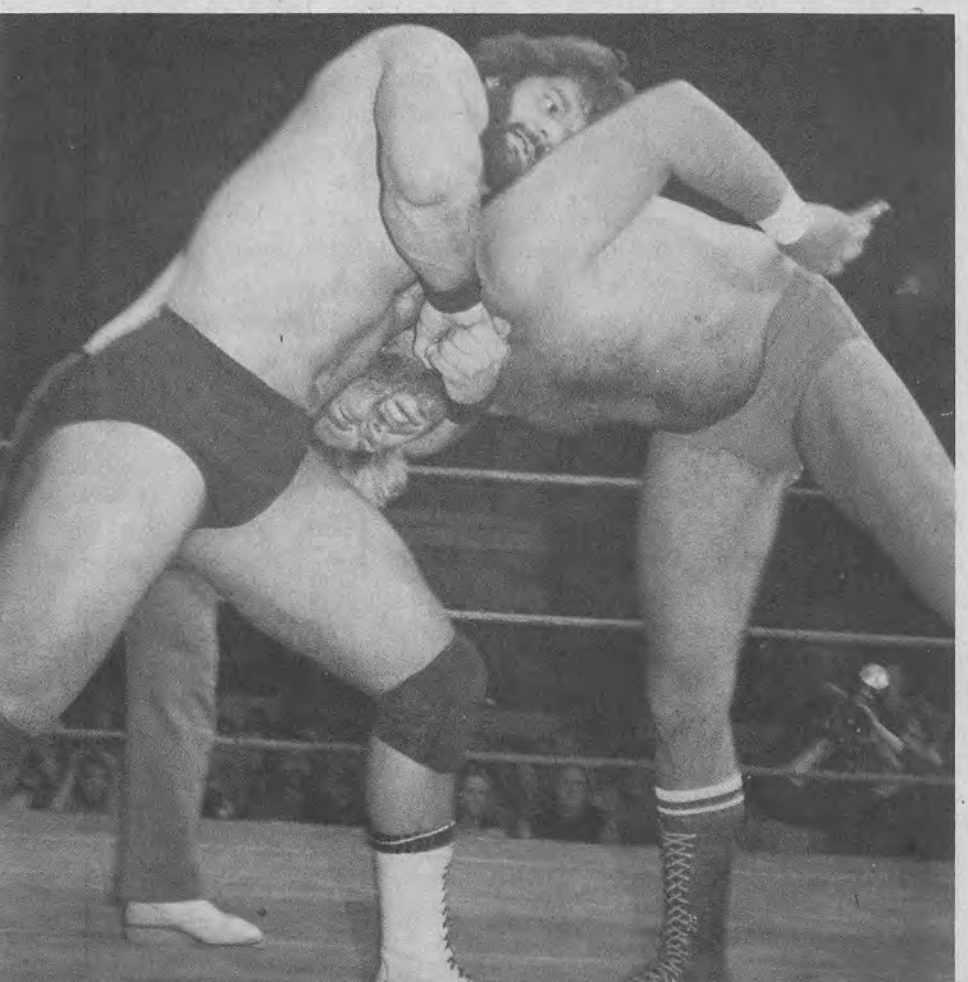
Photos by Buddy Myers

They're two of the most important men in professional wrestling, and now they're planning to form what could be the most impressive tag team in the history of the sport. Teaming Kerry Von Erich and Billy Jack might be the biggest news ever for tag team wrestling, but it could be bad news for the Von Erich family





In just over two years as a professional, Billy Jack has worked his way into the sport's elite group of superstars. He knows he has a lot to learn about tag team wrestling, but he's got a great partner to work with (opposite page). In one of his first matches in the World Class area, Billy works on John Tatum's neck (left and bottom) and celebrates an easy victory (above).



THEY MET FOR the first time last May. Kerry Von Erich was touring the Florida area right after he defeated Ric Flair for the NWA World heavyweight championship and he met then-Florida State champion Billy Jack.

They quickly became friends. And why not; they have a great deal in common. Both spend a lot of time and energy in the gym, training their bodies for power and strength. They are both dedicated to professional wrestling, and they work intensely to improve their match performance. They both advocate the priniciples of scientific wrestling. And finally, they both make an incredible effort to please their legions of fans.

In short, Kerry Von Erich and Billy Jack are two of a kind. And that two will soon become one, a tag team that has the potential to run right up to the top of the rat-

The Texas fans have always counted on Kerry Von Erich to be a major contributor to the war against area rulebreakers such as Chris Adams. Mike Von Erich fears that Kerry will leave Texas once he begins to team with Billy Jack.

ings and capture a world championship.

Everything sounds so wonderful. So why then is the Von Erich family so worried?

"I think they'd probably be the greatest tag team ever," Mike Von Erich said. "I don't have a doubt in my mind that those two could beat anyone in wrestling. Just based on their reputations, I think they'd deserve a shot at a major title in their first match together. I know my brother Kerry better than any other wrestler in the game, and I've seen a lot of Billy Jack, especially since he started wrestling here in Texas, and I know they could be a big success as a team.

"I don't know, I might come off sounding a little bit selfish about the whole thing, but I just have this feeling that once Kerry and Billy team up, that might be the end of the Von Erichs as we know it.

"I like things the way they are now," Mike continued, "and I see a lot of changes ahead once Kerry and Billy Jack team up. My biggest fear is that they will wrestle all over the country, and not just in Texas. Billy Jack has a lot of loyal fans in Florida and the Pacific Northwest who are not going to let him get away with just staying in the Texas area."

Mike Von Erich, who is starting only his second year as a professional wrestler, relies heavily on the guidance of his father and two brothers. Once a week, the four of them get together to review matches of potential opponents and discuss moves and maneuvers. Nobody benefits more from these sessions than young Mike. "It just wouldn't be the same without Kerry," he said.

"I think Billy and Kerry are going to make a great team," said Kevin, the oldest brother, "but I hope Kerry keeps some time open in his schedule to team with his brothers. We have a lot of fun getting into the ring, the three of us, and takin' care of business together. There isn't a three-man tag team in the world who can do it like we can. Most important the fans love to see the Von Erichs together. I like Billy, but I just pray this doesn't pull the Von Erichs apart."

The boys' father, Fritz Von Erich, while unopposed to the formation of the team, is concerned that Kerry might neglect his singles career.

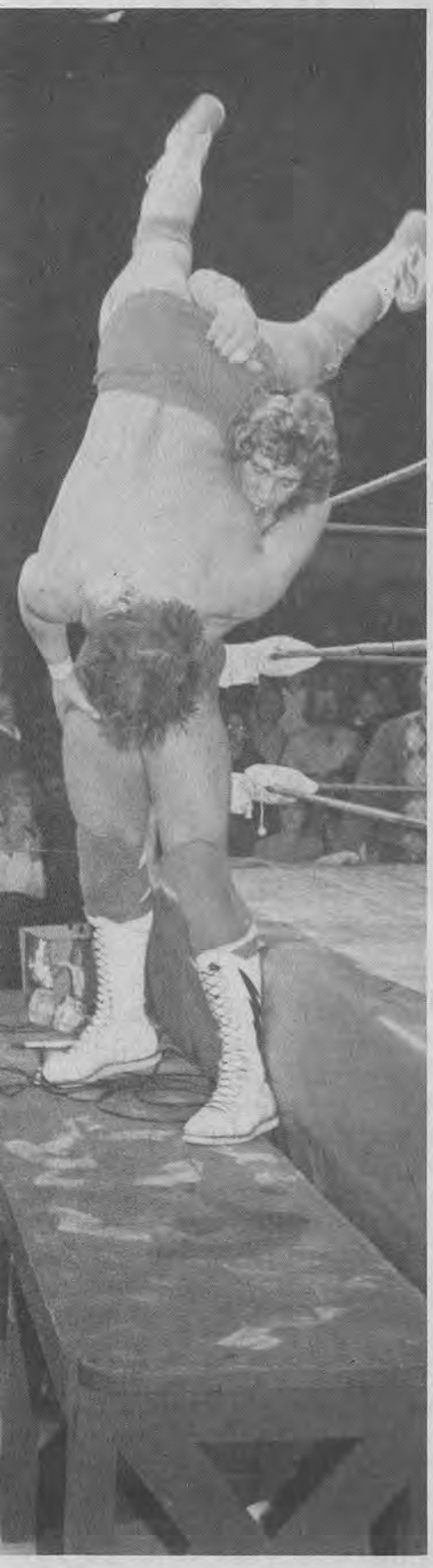
"Kerry was the first Von Erich ever to win the NWA World title," Fritz said, "and he made us all proud. Although he only held the belt for 19 days, it was a great 19 days. It proved that Kerry is capable of winning the greatest title in the sport, and I'd like to see him do it again. He can't do it unless he puts blinders on, trains hard, and thinks only about regaining the title. In other words, tag team wrestling could hinder that pursuit.

"This isn't an insult to Billy Jack. He's an outstanding wrestler. But I want Kerry to make another rush at Ric Flair. He owes it to his fans. to Texas, to the Von Erich name, and most important, to himself. It would be terrible if Kerry never challenged for the title again."

That's a fact that the fans would agree upon wholeheartedly. Yet, there are fans who would love to see Kerry and Billy in the ring together, even if it was only a temporary situation.

"I don't think they'd need much work together to beat the good teams," one fan said, "but to beat the great teams, they'd have to work out some match strategies and do some work together. You know that sometimes it isn't the best wrestlers who win tag team matches, it's the best teams. Still, I'd like to see them wrestle together, and I'd love to see them wrestle The Road Warriors. That would be an incredible match. Kerry and Billy might be the only two men in wrestling capable of beating them.

Von Erich lifts Adams and bodyslams him on the officials' table outside the ring (below). Kerry met then-Florida champion Billy Jack last May when he made a series of NWA World title defenses in Florida (right).



One thing's for sure—the arena would be packed to see a Kerry Von Erich-Billy Jack tag team!"

The team is a promoter's dream, a guarantee of a capacity crowd. That's why, despite the fears of the Von Erichs, these two men may team anyway. A big crowd means big money, and after all, Billy Jack and Kerry Von Erich are men working for a living. A big money contract just might be too big to turn down.

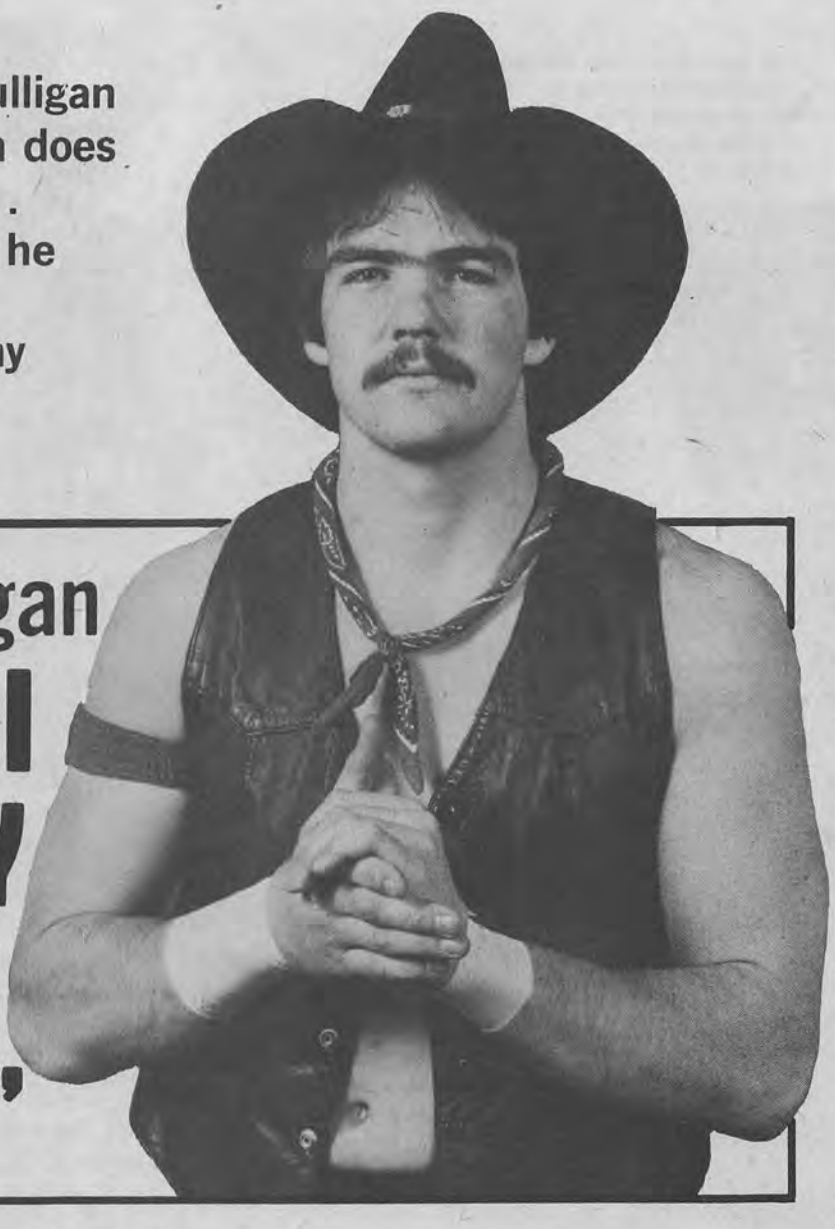
"This is true, money is important to a lot of wrestlers," Kerry said. "But anyone who knows me, and has followed my career since I started wrestling, knows that I don't do anything just for the money. I'm a professional wrestler because I love this sport.

"The fans also know that my one goal is the NWA World heavyweight championship, and I know that Billy is set on reaching that goal as well. I'm not gonna let that goal slip away from me. I loved wearing that World championship belt around my waist. It meant I was the best in the world at what I do, even if it was only 19 days' worth.

"The next time, and there will be a next time, I'm gonna have that belt for a long time. And you know who one of the top challengers will be? Billy Jack, that's who. He's a dedicated man and a great wrestler. To do what he's done in only two years is an incredible feat. Nothing will stand in the way of my regaining the title.

"Tag team wrestling is different and it's fun for me," Kerry continued. "I don't want that to sound like I don't take it seriously, because I do. Any time you step through the ropes, you're stepping into a dangerous situation. Billy and I both realize that. One of the things I like about him is his attitude about the sport. That's why I want to team with him. And it isn't a forever thing. We'll team up, maybe even win a title or two if we work hard, but ultimately the NWA World heavyweight title is the place we both want to be." □

Life was a living hell in the Mulligan household. Sometimes a man does what fate forces him to do . . . sometimes he just does what he has to do. In his own words, Blackjack Mulligan Jr. tells why he was behind his father's shocking transformation



Blackjack Mulligan Jr.'s Own Story: "I BEGGED MY FATHER TO TURN BAD!"

By Blackjack Mulligan Jr.

IT WAS A Long time coming, you know. Decisions like that aren't made easily, and heaven knows there were a lot of things to think about before and after the fact. Actually, I think it's all for the best, no matter what anyone says. Some people say that's a cop-out, and I guess they're entitled to their own opinions, but nobody's entitled to say that it was a decision that was made lightly.

It didn't happen overnight, either, that's for damn sure. Why, I remember not too long ago, a couple of months it was, when my father went up against Big John Studd. I was at that match, and it damn near ripped out my heart to see Studd do what he did.

What he did was nearly destroy my old man. I'm telling you, you haven't been through anything until you've seen your own father helpless at the hands of someone else . . . and you're sitting there watching it all and you're totally helpless to do anything.

When we got home that night, it was a scene like nothing that ever happened in our house ever before.

I had gotten home about 15 minutes earlier than my father. He had to shower and change after his match, and he had his own car with him, so I didn't see him at all after his match with Studd.

The house was quiet. Almost too quiet, but I knew that it would change pretty soon.

Fifteen minutes seemed like two hours. I knew what was coming, because it was a scene that had been repeated over and over again. The old man would come in, sore and aching, mean as hell, and

Blackjack Mulligan Sr. takes a beating from John Studd.

PHOTOS BY EDDIE CHESLOCK

complain about whatever match had gone on that night.

More times than I can count, I've seen him sit in his chair totally silent, thinking about the night's match and watching whatever else was inside of him eat away at him like there was no tomorrow. I guess a lot of times he felt like there wasn't, but he always went back into the ring for more.

After this Studd match, though, it was something else altogether. When the slam of the front door destroyed the silence of the house, I was ready for the worst. I wasn't ready, though, for what happened next.

"Damn it all, I'm fed up to *here* with all this crap!"

Steamed? Man, I never saw anything get under the old man's skin like that match with Studd. He threw his gym bag into the corner and knocked over a lamp, breaking the bulb and the porcelain body. Cursing his aim, he stormed into the kitchen, opened the refrigerator, cursed again, and slammed the door shut.

I didn't say a word. He came into the living room and sat in his favorite chair. He couldn't sit still, though, and in about a half a minute he was up and pacing the floor.

"Damn life this is . . . I'm getting fed up." He cursed under his breath again and looked directly into my eyes. I could almost feel the anger with my own eyes as he spoke.

Perhaps it is time for Blackjack Mulligan Sr. to return to his former, more aggressive, style. At least that's what Blackjack's son thinks. Mulligan sends Studd reeling (above).

"There was a time a while ago when I was doing all of this because of you," he said to me. "I wanted to set an example. I knew that rulebreaking was a decision that has to be made on a man's own conscience, and I didn't want you following me as a rulebreaker just because that's the way your father wrestles.

"Damn it son, I'm sick of taking all this crap," he said. "If I could only cut loose a little bit, I'd be able to take care of them all. It's the most damnable frustrating thing in my life."

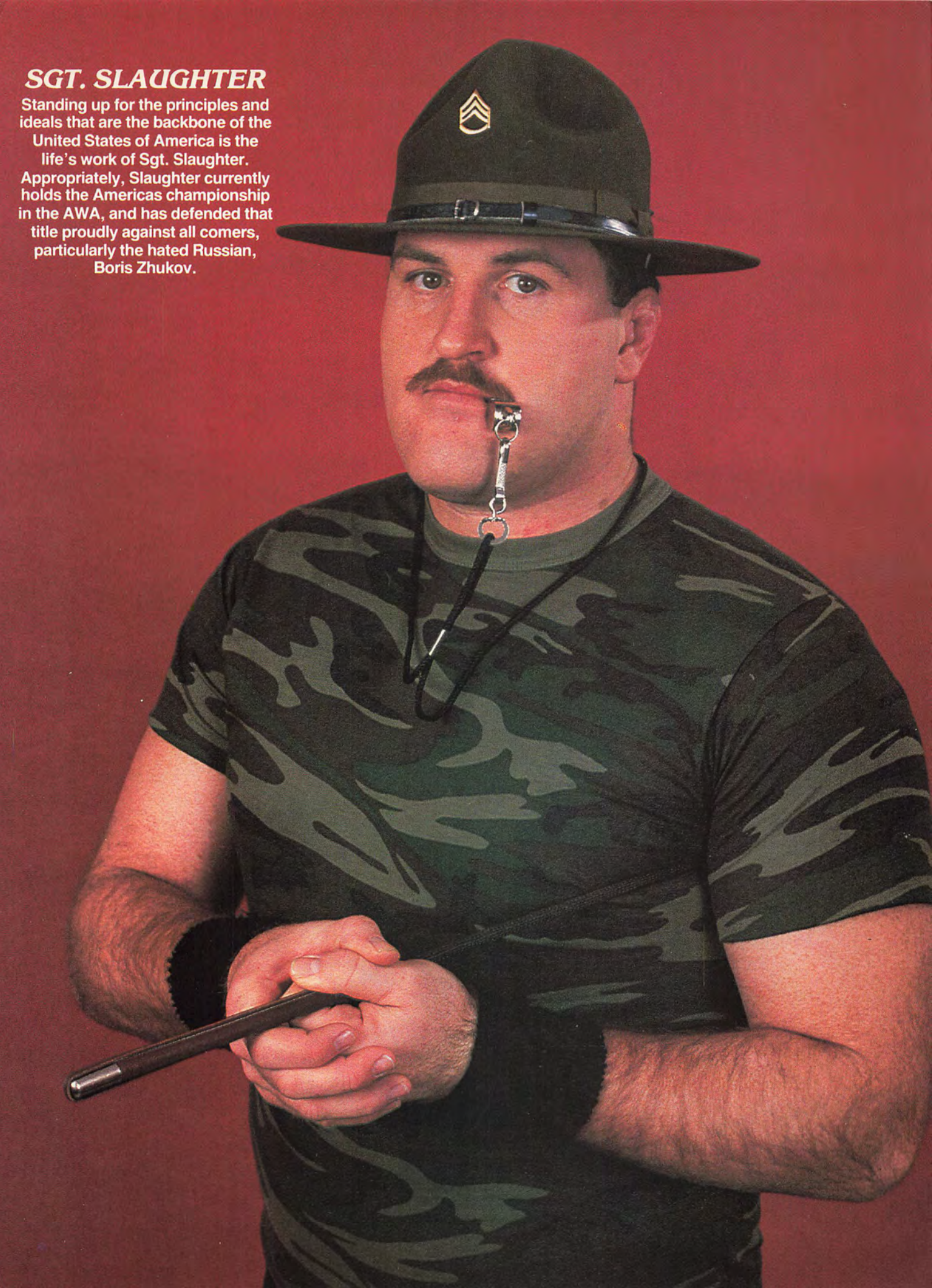
I told him to do it. "Don't worry about me," I told him. "You've got to wrestle the way you want—the way you used to, if just for your own sanity. Damn it, Dad, do what you've got to do! Hell, if you don't think I'm old enough to make my own decisions, then you're really in a helluva jam. Do it, and go all the way. You can't keep banging your head into a wall like this!"

Sometimes yelling is the only form of communication that sinks through somebody's head. Not only did I yell, but I begged, so help me, I begged for my father to turn bad.

The old man was silent, thinking about what I had said. There was a very tense silence in the house, the kind of silence that makes you know something important is going to go down, but you don't know when or how.

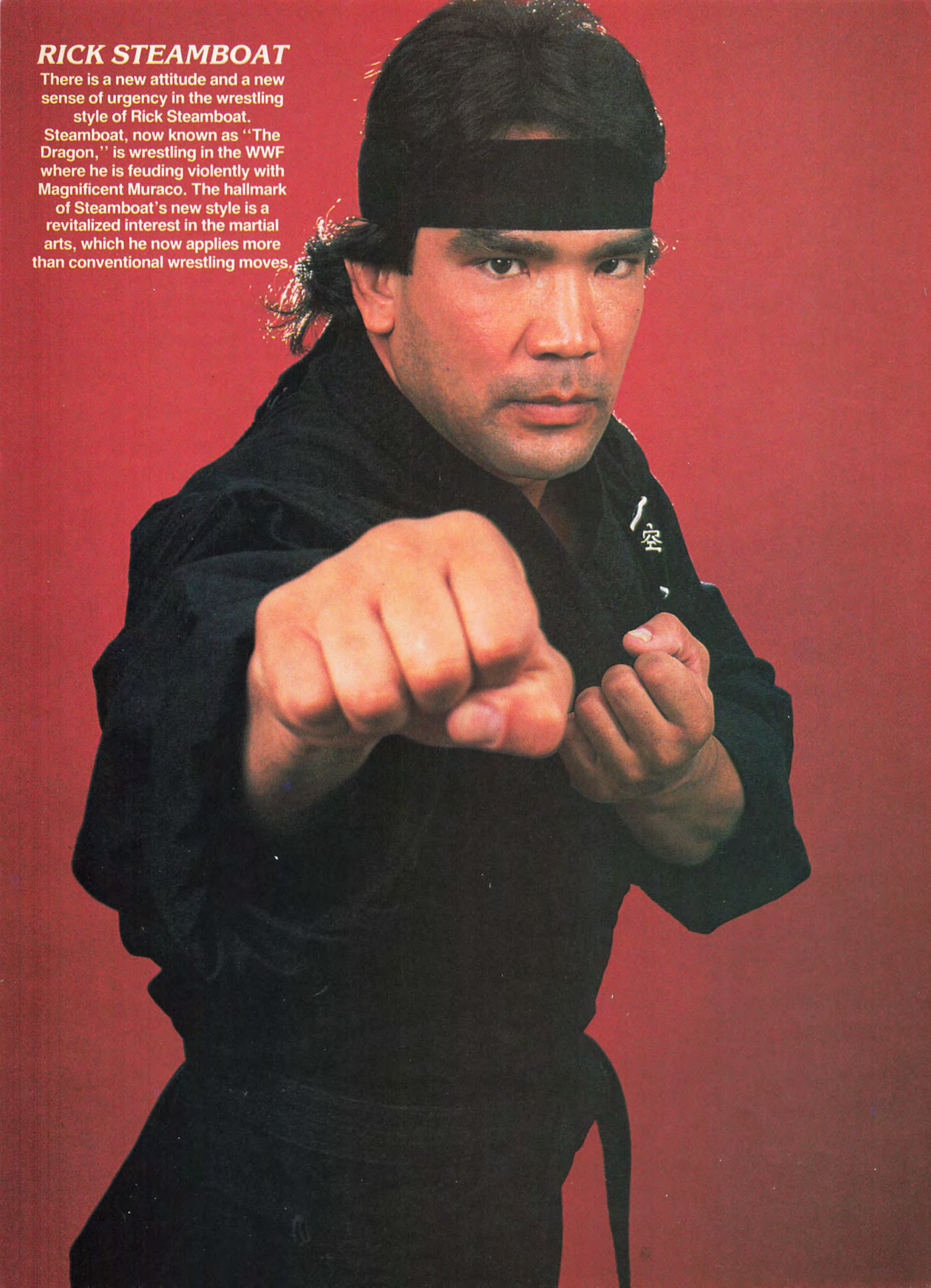
"You know, son, maybe you're right after all, maybe you're right."

He lapsed into silence again, thinking . . . thinking . . . thinking. Long into the night he just sat there, quiet, making the decision he knew he must. □



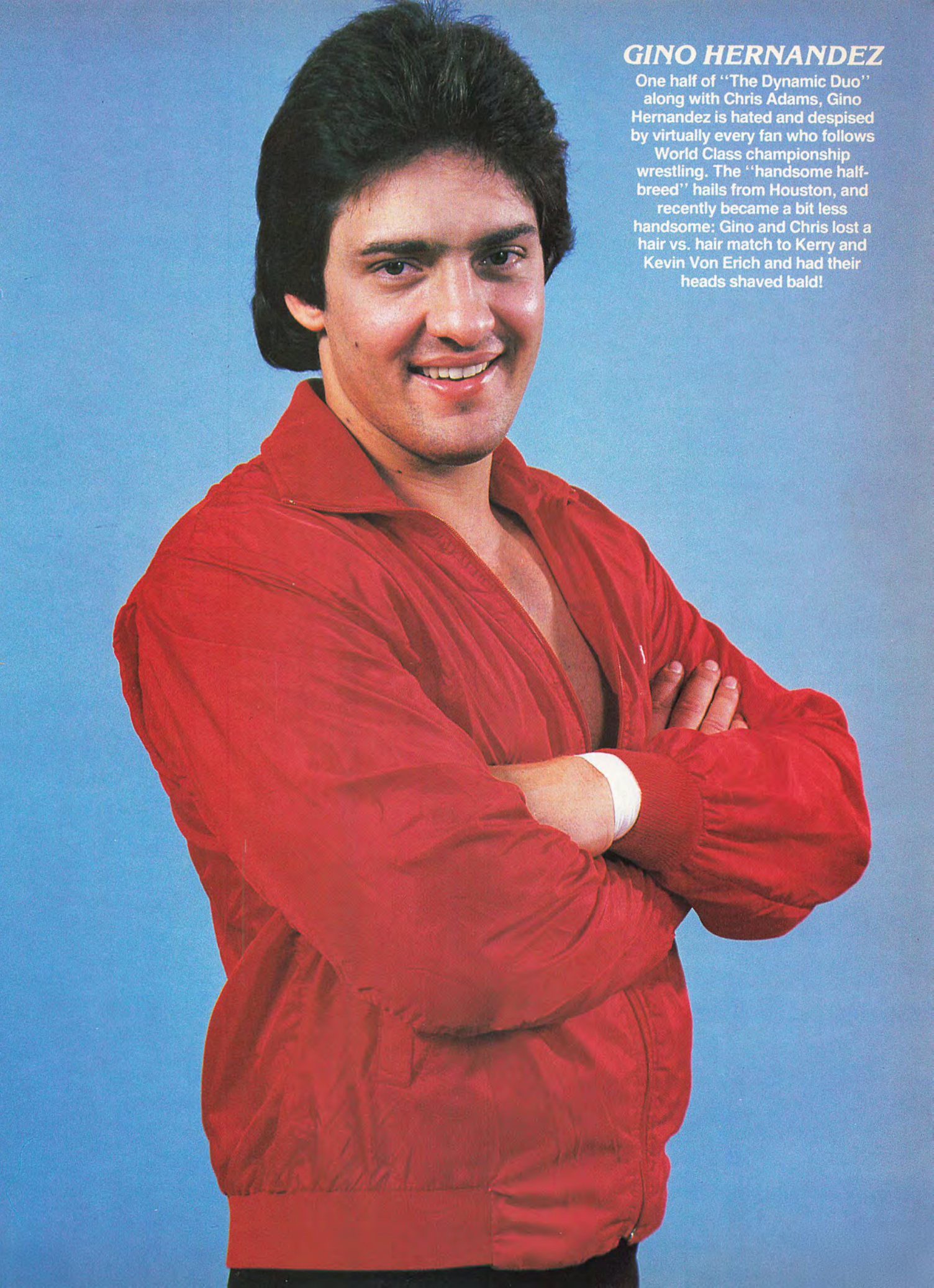
SGT. SLAUGHTER

Standing up for the principles and ideals that are the backbone of the United States of America is the life's work of Sgt. Slaughter. Appropriately, Slaughter currently holds the Americas championship in the AWA, and has defended that title proudly against all comers, particularly the hated Russian, Boris Zhukov.



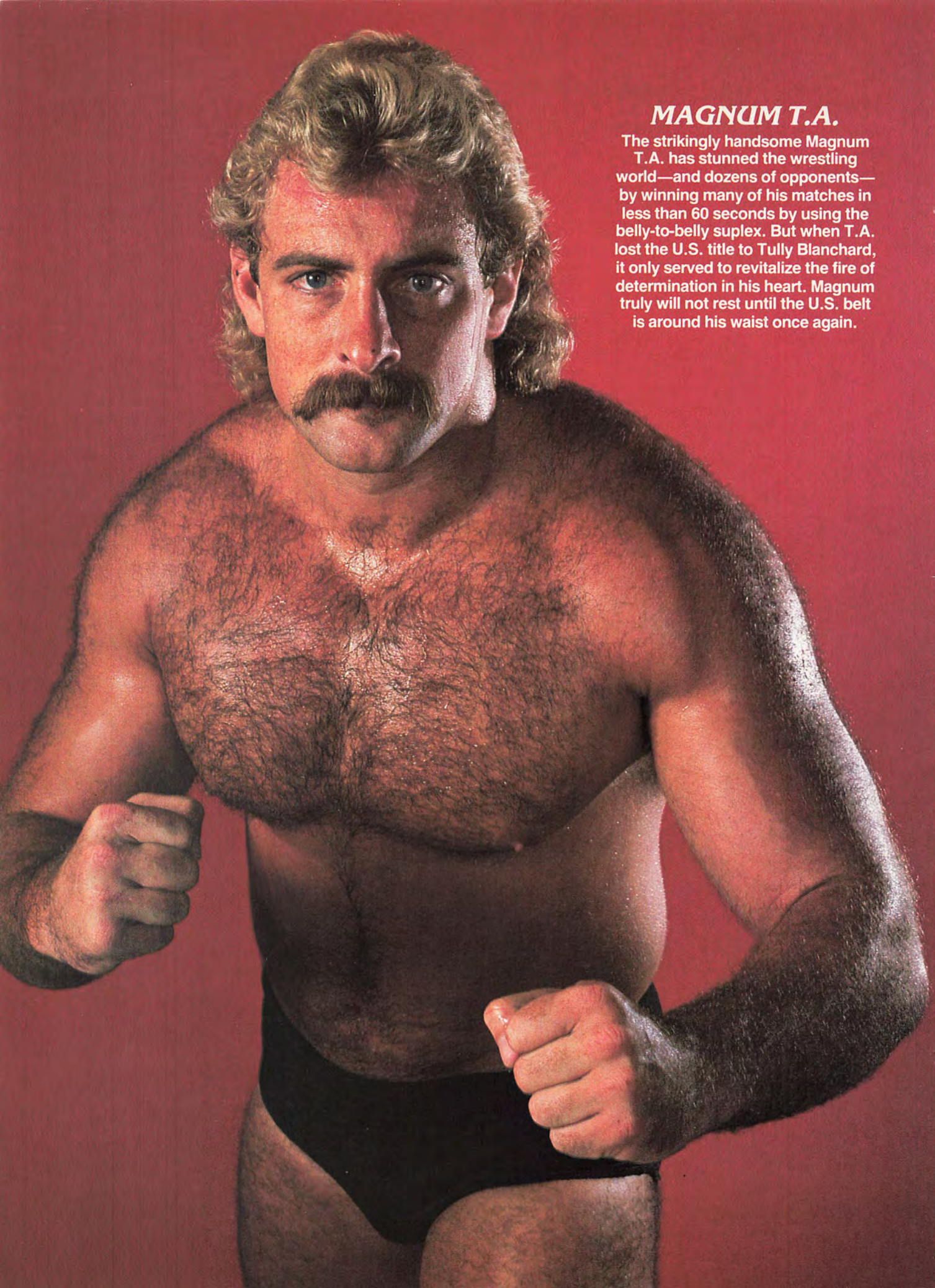
RICK STEAMBOAT

There is a new attitude and a new sense of urgency in the wrestling style of Rick Steamboat. Steamboat, now known as "The Dragon," is wrestling in the WWF where he is feuding violently with Magnificent Muraco. The hallmark of Steamboat's new style is a revitalized interest in the martial arts, which he now applies more than conventional wrestling moves.



GINO HERNANDEZ

One half of "The Dynamic Duo" along with Chris Adams, Gino Hernandez is hated and despised by virtually every fan who follows World Class championship wrestling. The "handsome half-breed" hails from Houston, and recently became a bit less handsome: Gino and Chris lost a hair vs. hair match to Kerry and Kevin Von Erich and had their heads shaved bald!



MAGNUM T.A.

The strikingly handsome Magnum T.A. has stunned the wrestling world—and dozens of opponents—by winning many of his matches in less than 60 seconds by using the belly-to-belly suplex. But when T.A. lost the U.S. title to Tully Blanchard, it only served to revitalize the fire of determination in his heart. Magnum truly will not rest until the U.S. belt is around his waist once again.

Awesome Destruction!

THE ROAD WARRIORS POWER TO THEIR FIRST WORLD TITLE

When The Road Warriors entered the AWA in early August, Paul Ellering predicted that they would win the AWA World tag team title by Labor Day. Hawk and Animal fulfilled their manager's expectations with time to spare. In the process they overwhelmed former champs Baron Von Raschke and Crusher, and wrote a new page in tag team wrestling history

Photos by Linda Platt

Warrior Hawk clamps his muscular arm around Baron Von Raschke's chin (top left). Crusher tries to pry a reluctant Warrior Animal off the ropes (above right). Referee Eldin Rich orders the Warriors to allow Von Raschke out of their corner (below).

AUGUST 24, 1984: While many of Chicago's three million inhabitants readied themselves for a Friday night out on the town, The Road Warriors were in the gym lifting weights.

"C'mon, you gerbil-faced geek, push! Push! Push!"

Road Warrior Hawk's gravelly voice reverberated through the weight room of a midtown Chicago gym that, if not for the Warriors's presence, would have been closed. But Precious Paul Ellering's influence—and a few dollars to the gym's manager—was persuasive enough to keep the gym open into the night.

"You ugly mother, push harder! Go! Do it!"

Road Warrior Animal was sitting in a piece of gym equipment designed for military presses—an exercise where one sits down and grasps two handles slightly above and behind the head, then pushes against those handles until the arms are completely extended. It is a very, very difficult and strenuous exercise.

"Let's go, you wimp! You think 200 pounds is much? C'mon, scuz! Push!"

At Hawk's insistence, Animal fought back the pain that was coursing through his limbs and, his face wrenched with pain and dripping with sweat, he completed the final extension of his third set of 20 presses.

"I knew you could do it. *Hahaha!* Great! I'd like to see that skinny wimp Von Raschke or that old fogey Crusher do one set of 20 with 100 pounds! We'll pulverize 'em tomorrow night in Vegas!"

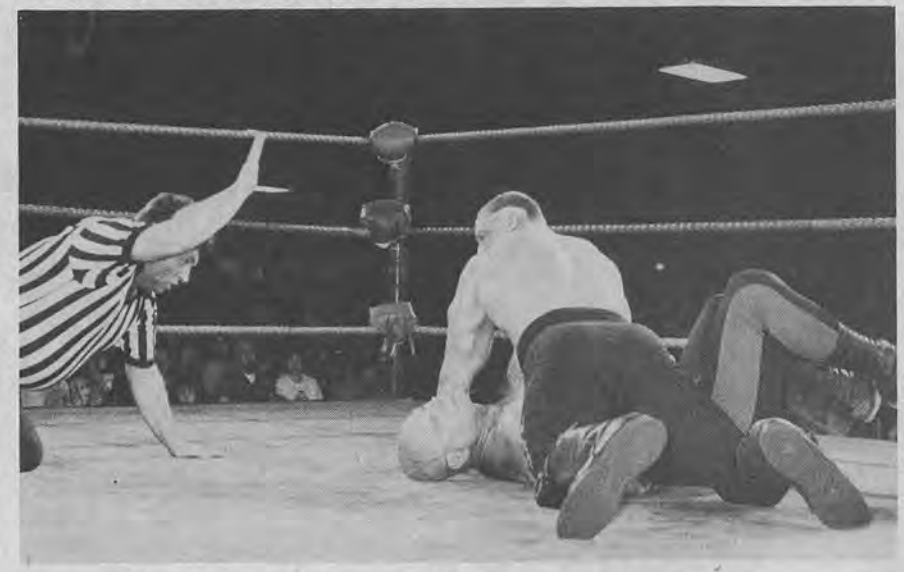
Hawk slapped his tag team partner on the back. Animal breathed heavily but was pleased with what he had just achieved. "Pulverize?" Animal said with a laugh. "Easiest thing in the world."

In one corner of the gym, Precious Paul Ellering looked up from the day's edition of *The Wall Street Journal* and smiled.

***

August 25, 1984: The Showboat Sports Pavilion in Las Vegas, Nevada, is jam-packed with fans of AWA wrestling. They have just witnessed an exciting undercard of action that included such top names as Tony Atlas, Bruiser Brody, Steve Regal, Larry Zbyszko, and others. They are now awaiting the spectacular main event:

Ellering, at ringside, looks like an orchestra conductor as Hawk drops an elbow on Von Raschke's head (above). Hawk attempts a pin, but Von Raschke is able to kick out (below). Later, Animal would gain a questionable pin over the Baron.



The Road Warriors vs. Baron Von Raschke and The Crusher for the AWA World tag team title.

Anticipation fills the air as the ring introductions are made. The fans are sitting on the edges of their seats. They're waiting for the action to begin.

They don't have to wait long.

Before the timekeeper can ring the bell to signal the opening of the match, the Warriors have charged into action. The ring is a huge blur of action as a four-man battle royal is underway. But soon referee Eldin Rich has taken control and sent one member of each team out of the ring.

The next few minutes are a tactical nightmare for Crusher and Von Raschke. Hawk and Animal sadistically double-team Von Raschke, keeping him in their own corner and refusing to allow him to tag off with Crusher. Within minutes, Von Raschke is exhausted by the power and fury of the Warriors.

Finally, Von Raschke manages to tag off to Crusher, who, being fresh, manages to weaken Animal to an extent. Another tag off a minute or so later, and a refreshed Von Raschke charges into the ring and captures Animal in a perfectly applied clawhold.

It is about six minutes into the match as the fans in the Showboat cheer wildly, anticipating Von Raschke ready to claim victory. Feeling the effects of the claw, Animal begins slumping to the canvas. Hawk climbs into the ring to help his partner, but Crusher runs in as well and knocks him to the mat.

Seconds later, Precious Paul Ellering climbs onto the ring apron. As Crusher moves over to hit Ellering, referee Rich turns his back on the action to send Crusher back to his own corner. At that moment, Hawk, who has by then recovered from Crusher's blow, climbs the ropes and hits Von Raschke with a flying elbowsmash.

With Ellering keeping the referee busy, Hawk turns Von Raschke—stunned from the elbowsmash—over on his back and places Hawk—groggy from Von Raschke's claw—on top of the Baron. Hawk runs out of the ring and referee Rich turns, sees the pin attempt, and makes the three-count.

The Road Warriors have captured the AWA World tag team title.

***

August 27, 1984: Following a Sunday of rest, Precious Paul Ellering was behind the desk in his business office working on contracts for his Road Warriors to defend the AWA World tag team title.

"When you're the best," Ellering said, "there are those self-possessed individuals who feel the need to prove that they are in fact better than you are. But let all of those teams who feel the need to challenge the Warriors be forewarned: Hawk and Animal *are* the best, and there is nothing that can be done to prove them otherwise.

"The Road Warriors are the greatest tag team in wrestling," Ellering continued.

And they will remain the greatest until somebody proves otherwise. □

Sgt. Slaughter's Proudest Achievement:

"I STRAIGHTENED OUT WAHOO McDANIEL!"

Photos by Scott Romer

It was an ugly match. Chairs were swung and blood was spilled and in no way did it resemble a sporting event. In the end, however, something good came of it. Something that can affect wrestling for many years to come

MOST OF THE time, Sgt. Slaughter arrives early to the arena on the night of a match. He likes to get the feel of the place, believing the unique personality of every crowd must be understood before he dares wrestle. After years of battling the most ferocious opponents in the most savage of professional sports, he leaves nothing to chance.

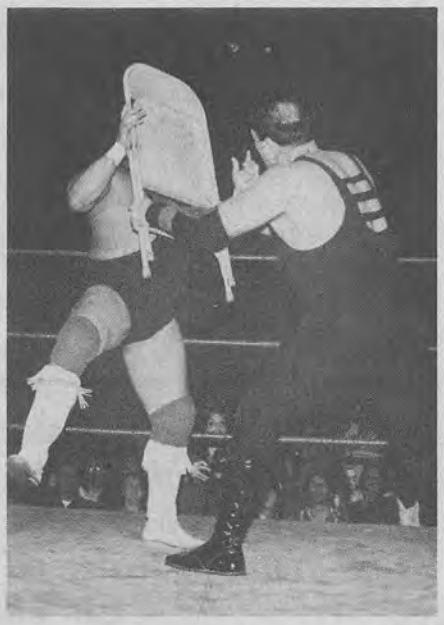
This night was different. He arrived after the card had started; the second match of the night was almost over when he started to dress for combat. Usually, he enjoys the ritual of dressing, making sure everything's in place. It's a holdover from his days in the Marines when he was rewarded for having everything in place. This night, he dressed not carelessly, but mechanically. He was not looking forward to what he would have to do.

There's an aura a man has when he doesn't want to be disturbed. Slaughter had that aura about him this evening and the other wrestlers allowed him to dress in silence. He was preparing for his battle against Wahoo McDaniel, once the hero of millions but now one of wrestling's most cruel rulebreakers. Slaughter could confront him with two strategies—either get as dirty as McDaniel or take the high road and at least be assured of leaving the ring with his personal dignity intact. From the troubled look on Slaughter's face, those who knew him best feared he hadn't decided which strategy to follow.

Slaughter was summoned to the ring. He went forcefully but without the sense of expectation he usually brings to a match. He was a man confused, and no one had to tell Slaughter that a confused wrestler was a wrestler at great risk.

When Slaughter entered the ring, his opponent stood tall and angry

(Continued on page 54)



So brutal was the match between Slaughter and McDaniel that it had to leave some sort of psychological mark on either or both of them. It's quite possible that Wahoo might be ready to change his entire wrestling philosophy. Battling at ringside, Wahoo jams his fingertips into Slaughter's throat (above). The Sarge slumps into the ropes as he's chopped by Wahoo (below left). Slaughter swings a chair at McDaniel's face (below right).

HULK HOGAN VS. NIKOLAI VOLKOFF:

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE OF THE HULKSTER'S TOUGHEST TITLE MATCH

THE PAST SEVERAL months have been active ones in the WWF. Between Mike Rotundo and Barry Windham winning the WWF tag team title from Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch (while being managed by none other than Capt. Lou Albano), and the arrival of such stars as Jim Neidhardt and George Wells, the WWF has become a hotbed of wrestling news.

The most newsworthy item out of that territory in the past few months, though, is the departure of Sgt. Slaughter. After months of defending the honor of his country against such foreigners as The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff, the ex-Marine has decided to move on to the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. group in search of more infidels, and, more important, a world championship.

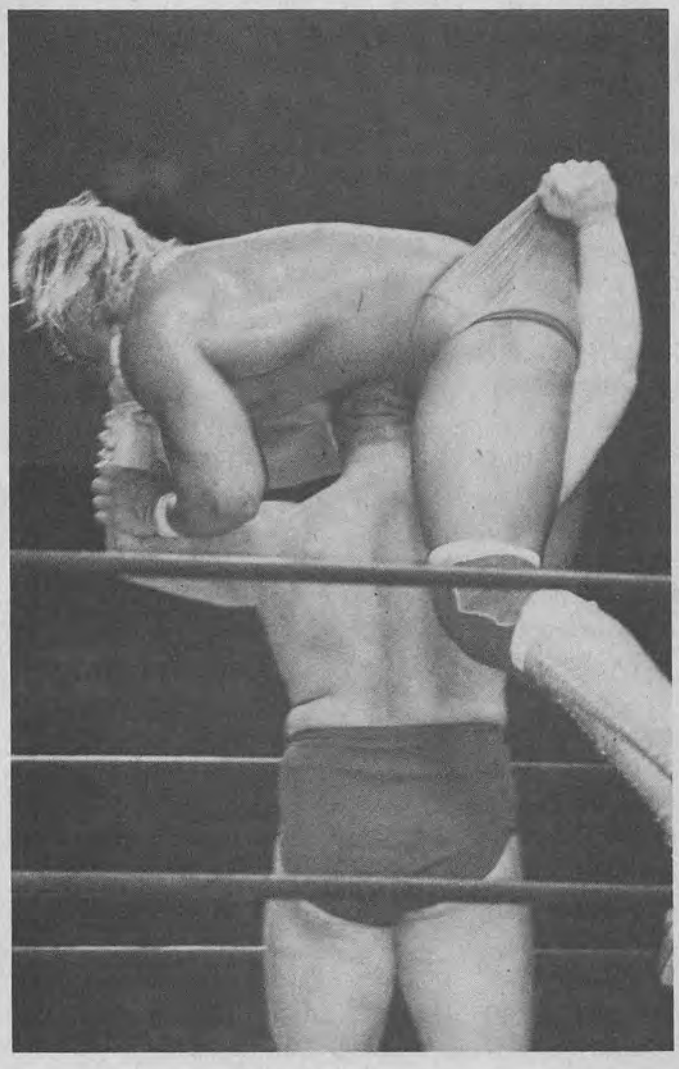
Slaughter is yet another example of a superior wrestler becoming frustrated in his pursuit of a WWF title shot. The WWF's longstanding unwritten rule of not matching up two fan favorites has again backfired, this time resulting in the loss of perhaps its most popular wrestler.

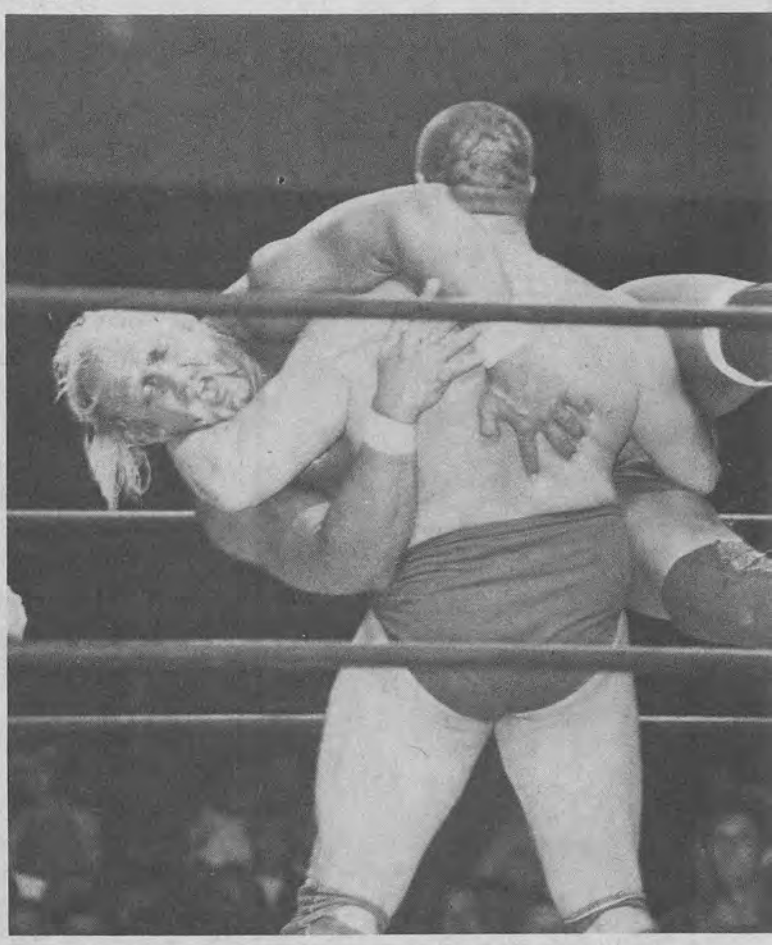
Slaughter's absence leaves a gaping hole in the WWF structure: Who now will be willing to assume his mantle of patriotism? Which wrestler will be willing to devote his time and energy in the pursuit of American nationalism? Windham and Rotundo are too busy defending their freshly acquired belts, Jimmy Snuka is too embroiled in his feud with Roddy Piper, and Tito Santana has devoted all his energy to regaining the Intercontinental championship. And there is very little chance that men like Greg Valentine, Big John Studd, or Ken Patera would ever turn against their rulebreaker brethren, regardless of their nationality.

That leaves the job to the number

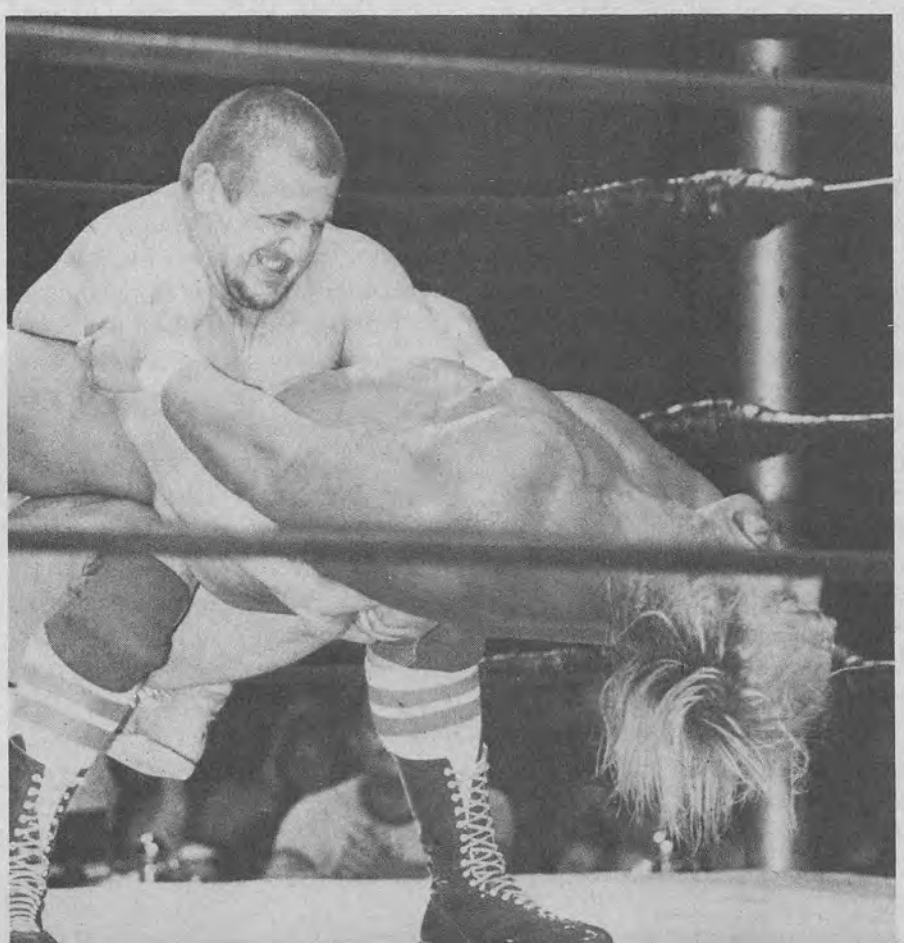
Hulk Hogan maintains probably the most strenuous schedule of any champion in the history of the sport. Now, with Sgt. Slaughter's departure from the WWF, Hogan finds himself in the difficult postion of having to defend not only his championship but his country as well. Can The Hulkster cope with the added strain?

Photos by David Fitzgerald





Nikolai Volkoff is one of the few men in wrestling who can physically match Hulk Hogan. The Russian lifts the champ (left) and will slam him back-first across his knee (above). Volkoff turns a bearhug into a variation of the backbreaker (below).



one man himself, whether he likes it or not. And that man is WWF champion Hulk Hogan.

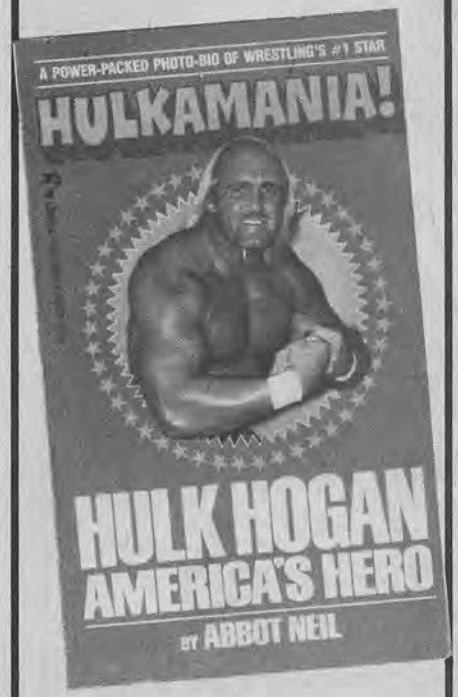
Hogan has recently been involved in several terrifying ring wars with Nikolai Volkoff, matches that have thrilled and frightened the fans, as well as the wrestlers themselves. And while Hogan hasn't waved the flag or led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, he has nonetheless been inspiring.

Volkoff, who stands 6'8" and weighs 345 pounds, is one of the few men who can see eye to eye with Hogan. The animosity between the two men runs deep in both directions. Hogan, for obvious reasons, hasn't any love lost for Volkoff. Hulk-a-mania doesn't include those who defile the United States.

For basically the same reasons, Volkoff despises Hogan. The Hulk, after all, epitomizes all that is American: Tall, tanned, and aggressive, blond-

(Continued on page 51)

SPECIAL OFFER FOR HULK HOGAN FANS!



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DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from page 19)

floor.

At ringside, Flair and Rhodes pummeled each other mercilessly. It was during that brutal exchange that the first evidence of a cut over Rhodes' eye became apparent. Frazier quickly took control of the situation, ordering both men back into the ring quickly, or else a double-disqualification would result.

And now—Rhodes was being pummeled again, and with each connection of Flair's fist to the flesh above Rhodes' right eye, the tear in that flesh became wider, the flow of blood down the face became greater, and the strength in Dusty's body diminished.

Flair stood up, allowing Dusty to rise to his feet, then backed "The American Dream" into one corner and mounted the middle turnbuckle in preparatrion for another closed-fist attack. But Frazier stepped into the middle of the action once again as he called Flair down to the mat.

Dusty began to move out of the corner, slightly unsteady on his feet, and Frazier moved in again. He ordered Flair back to his corner, and examined the cut.

Then the bombshell fell: Frazier stopped the match! Ric Flair retained his NWA World title and was awarded $1 million.

Dusty was furious. The fans in the Greensboro Coliseum were shocked. Several arena security guards had to run into the ring to restrain Dusty. Manny Fernandez, Rhodes' NWA World championship tag team partner, ran in to calm his friend down.

Confusion was everywhere. Nobody could believe it: At one second, the fans expected Rhodes to mount a comeback against the champion. At the next second, Frazier was holding Flair's arm in the air declaring him the winner.

"This ain't no lousy boxing match, sucker!" howled an intensely angry Rhodes. "What the hell you think you doin'?"

But protests to Frazier proved worthless. The decision was final.

Dusty Rhodes, awaiting medical attention in the dressing room, is still in a fighting mood.

"Too soon!" screamed one fan at ringside. "Payoff!" howled another. Hundreds of fans were heard to be screaming, "Kill the ref!"

Rhodes has filed an official protest with the NWA, but Mid-Atlantic promoter Jim Crockett does not feel he has a strong case. "I don't want to second-guess Joe Frazier," Crockett said during a postmatch interview. "I know a lot of fans were upset by the decision, and certainly Dusty was upset that the match was stopped, and that's to be expected. But I feel Frazier's decision was a just one. He was the closest to the action, and the referee's decision is final."

But the nagging question remains: Could Dusty have rallied to defeat Flair? Certainly we've seen "The American Dream" stage all kinds of comebacks in the past in dozens of matches. And one must consider the clear victory that Rhodes holds over Flair in the April 30 "Lords of the Ring" card in Miami's Orange Bowl.

Was the match stopped too soon? We don't want to second-guess referee Joe Frazier either; that decision is up the NWA. □

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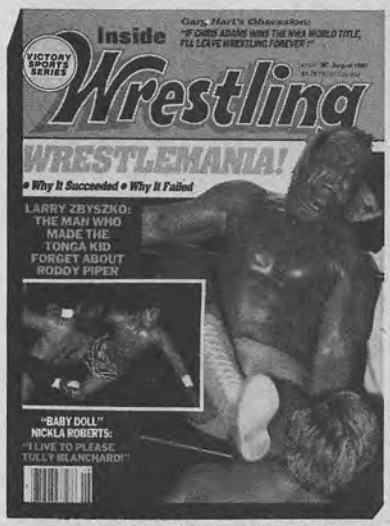
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Press Conference

(Continued from page 12)

Despite referee Dick Kroll's protest, Precious walks off with the AWA belt following a match between Martel and Jim Garvin (above). Rick grabs Bockwinkel by the arm and whips him into the turnbuckles (below).

the ability he has, for his knowledge of scientific wrestling. Let's face it, he is a great wrestler. But all too often he will bend the rules, he will disqualify himself to save his title. I despise that. And then there are champions who are worried about the fans more than they are about their wrestling inside the ring.

APTER: You've been described as a "blue-collar champion." Do you think that's an appropriate characterization?

MARTEL: Blue-collar? Maybe. I know I'm the kind of wrestler who worries more about my wrestling than about my visibility in the rock 'n' roll world, or at fancy nightclubs, or anything like that. I like to think of myself as a working champion, because that's what I do, I'm out there every night working, working, working. Wrestling is a tough life, but I love it, and I want to be the best I can possibly be. That

takes a lot of work.

ELLNER: Lately, a lot of your work has had to do with one Mr. Jim Garvin. Do you think Garvin is capable of winning the title from you?

MARTEL: **Good question. I'm tempted to say that anyone is capable of taking a title from any champion on any given night; that's the nature of professional wrestling. It's a cliche, maybe, but it's true. With Garvin, though, I think the problem is more complex. I have to be worried about a lot more than simply his wrestling abilities. I have to be worried about foreign objects, I have to be worried about a severe and dangerous level of rule-breaking, and I have to be worried about attacks from behind from that valet of his, Precious.**

ELLNER: There's also another thing you have to be worried about.

MARTEL: **What's that?**

ELLNER: You have to be worried about the psychological warfare that Garvin is waging.

PETERS: That's right. This is really a war being fought on two fronts, isn't it? It's being fought in the ring, and it's being fought out of the ring and in interviews.

MARTEL: **You know, I'm glad you brought this up, because I'm really beginning to get fed up with a lot of the stuff I'm hearing about me and Garvin. In one story, I read where there were rumors I would trade the AWA World title for Garvin's valet. Now that's ridiculous! In the first place, I wouldn't trade the title for anyone or anything, and in the second place, I wouldn't trade a useless pair of tattered wrestling trunks for that bimbo.**

APTER: I've never heard you talk like this before, Rick!

MARTEL: **Well, I've never had to deal with someone like Garvin and Precious before. I don't like what Garvin's doing. I don't like it one bit. And I want to say, right now so that all the readers of your magazines can know for sure, that any fan reading something in a magazine that Garvin has to say, or listening to something that Garvin has to say on television—well, take**

(Continued on page 50)

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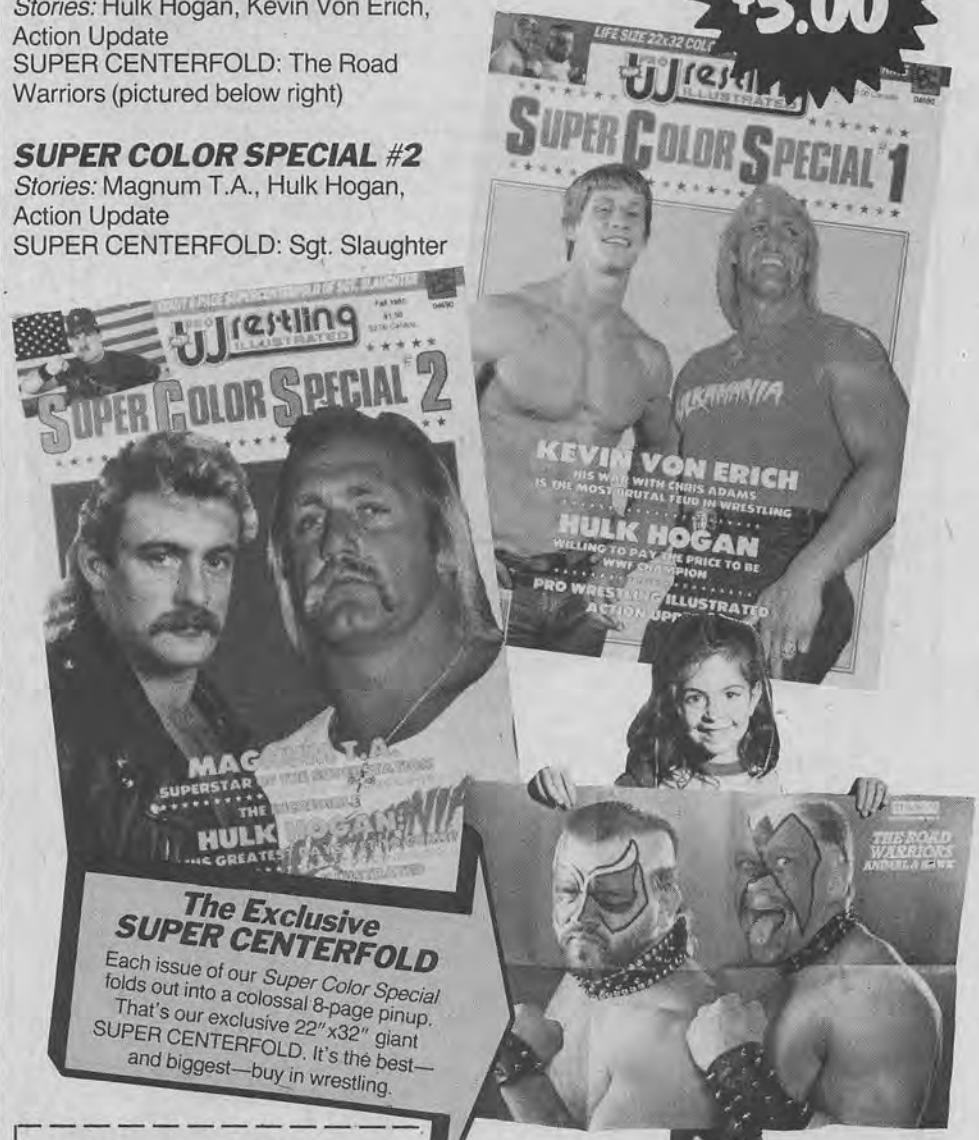

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Press Conference

(Continued from page 49)

it with a few thousand grains of salt. Garvin's about as trustworthy and honest in what he says as he is trustworthy and honest in the ring, and you all know what that's like.

PETERS: What do you think it will take to finally get Garvin out of your hair?

MARTEL: I don't know. How many times do I have to beat him? How many times do I have to put up with attacks from his valet? I don't know what it will take, Craig. Maybe I'll have to pin him clean in the middle of the ring half a dozen times. Maybe I'll have to have a match with him where his valet is locked in a cage so she can't interfere. You know, these things can get out of hand, and that's why I'm against having valets in principle, because you have to go to extreme measures, like locking her inside a cage or something, in order to get a fair one-on-one match where you know there won't be any interference.

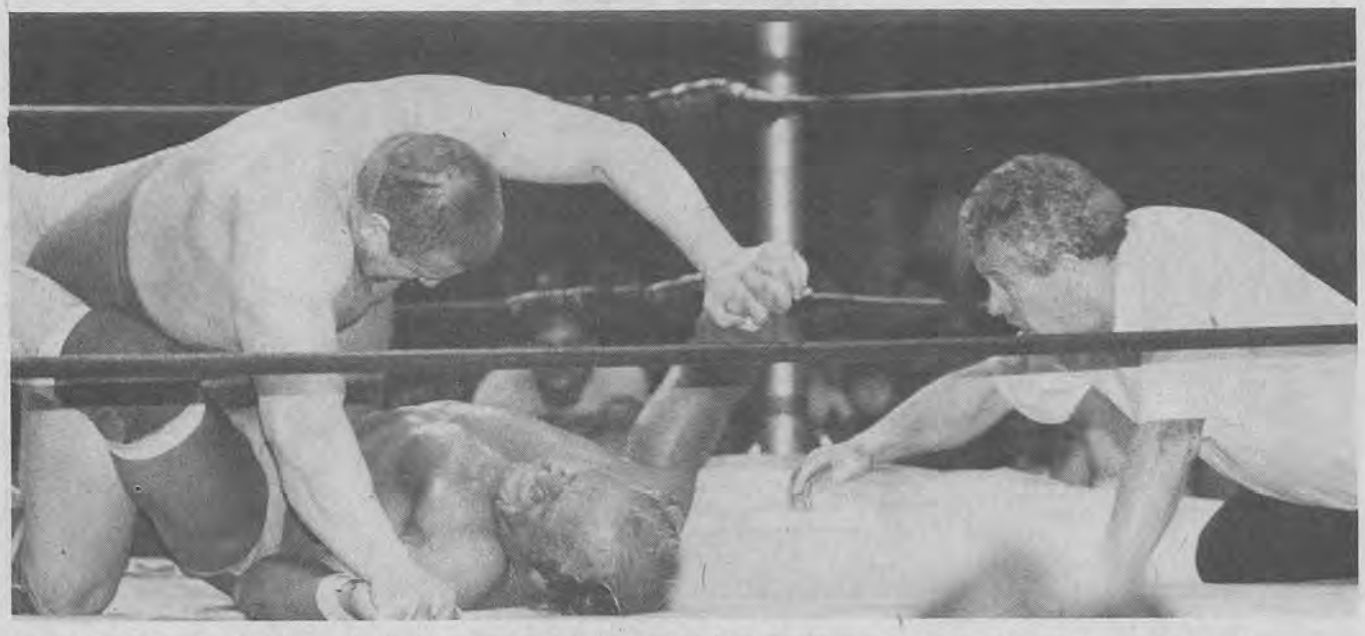
Frustrated by Garvin's frequent strolls from the ring, Rick grabs hold of his challenger and won't let him get away.

ELLNER: Maybe you should get a valet of your own!

MARTEL: Now there's an idea. I wonder how Garvin would like it if he got a taste of his own medicine! But I don't think so, Eddie. I have my own way of doing things, and I'll have to take care of Garvin in my own way. It may take some time, but I'll do it. That's a promise. □

HOGAN-VOLKOFF

(Continued from page 45)



haired and blue-eyed, born and raised in Venice Beach, California, Hogan seems to have been lifted right from a Beach Boys single. To a man whose life is contained within the spartan boundaries of communistic life, Nikolai Volkoff is understandably resentful of a man of Hogan's wealth, attraction, and fame.

As WWF champion, Hogan must fight whomever the promoter mandates. When the opponent is Volkoff, however, the Hulk is unusually agitated, his face becoming a crimson mask of adrenaline. Hogan's determination comes as little surprise to wrestling experts.

"I don't understand people's surprised reactions," said veteran wrestling columnist Matt Brock. "Hulk Hogan's commitment to excellence is legendary. That he would pick up the cause of patriotism shouldn't surprise anyone. As champion, he understands the importance of maintaining the American system of life, as an American his national pride is certainly wounded by the antics of foreign animals like Volkoff."

It hasn't been easy on Hogan. As champion, the Hulkster often fights six times a week, taking on a variety of challengers, each with a different style. Wrestling Big John Studd one night, Paul Orndorff the next, and Roddy Piper after that, and then taking on a fresh Nikolai Volkoff on the fourth night requires superhuman effort and strength. So far, Hulk Hogan has been up to the task, although in his latest match against Volkoff, the outcome swung precariously back and forth between champion and challenger.

It's brute strength against brute strength as Volkoff tries to pin the WWF champion (above). Hogan, saluting the fans with his championship belt, knows that a victory over Volkoff means more to America than a victory over just about any other wrestler (below).

Volkoff battered Hogan throughout the match, weakening the champ with a series of backbreakers, bearhugs, and bodyslams. At times, Volkoff treated Hogan with actual contempt, mocking and taunting him as he battered him across the ring. Hogan's schedule, the physical demands of defending his belt, the emotional demands of satisfying his legions of fans, and the psychological demands of filling Sgt. Slaughter's boots seemed to have finally caught up with him. As Volkoff treated him as a child treats a worn rag doll, Hogan's year-long title reign seemed in real jeopardy.

Then, as if everyone had to be reminded again, Hulk-a-mania asserted itself. Hogan threw off the shackles of fatigue, puffed out his chest, and blew Volkoff half way back to the Ukraine. In short order, Hogan rifled a stunning forearm to Volkoff's head, picked up the 345-pound Russian, hurled him to the canvas, and plied into the prone Volkoff with a flying elbowsmash to set up the victory.

Afterward, Hogan paraded around the ring, muscles flexing, his belt held proudly above his head. But this match was worth far more than the WWF championship. And judging by the look on the Hulk's face, he seemed to know that. □

(Continued from page 15)

Armstrong assumes a brief advantage (above left), but for the most part it was Ellering's night. Precious Paul, running Brad across the ring (above right), claims to be of championship caliber, but only lacks a manager of his own quality. For now, Ellering is quite content to manage the AWA World tag team champion Road Warriors and wrestle on a part-time basis.

kick that he uses as a mainstay of his wrestling style.

So to bring this in perspective to my match in The Omni: Brad Armstrong was hoplessly overmatched before he even stepped into the ring. There was no way he could have hoped to combat my raw physical strength or my superior strategic intellect.

Indeed, I unleashed a veritable cornucopia of moves and maneuvers against Armstrong. Strength holds such as headlocks, armlocks, and chinlocks that he had no chance of powering out of. More elegant maneuvers such as the corckscrew neckbreaker and the piledriver, maneuvers that sapped his strength and will to continue. And Armstrong lost the match. That much was evident to the thousands of fans assembled in The Omni, if not to the referee, who could have counted to six as I pinned Armstrong's shoulders to the mat, yet who counted to three in the space of a single second when Armstrong made what was obviously an unsuccessful pin attempt.

But there were implications suggested by that match that I have pondered for weeks, implications that in turn suggest possible courses of action that could alter the entire face of professional wrestling in the years to come.

For example, did you know that I could capture the AWA or NWA World titles? I have the skill. I have the ability. And if I had a manager like me, I'd be champion.

But that is the key, you see. And I want to state this fact about professional wrestling management so that all of you intellectual aphids realize and understand that there is more to managing than simply accompanying your wrestler to the ring.

Managing involves business decisions, and above all else I am a businessman. My stock portfolio is valued in the tens of millions of dollars. And when I manage a championship team such as the AWA World tag team champion Road Warriors, I have certain responsibilities to the team. Responsibilities that involve both fiscal and strategic decisions.

Those responsibilities take up a lot of time. There are many days when I spend 16 hours in my office planning future title defenses for the Warriors, shifting financial interests, and in general working toward building a solid foundation today so that The Legion of Doom can enjoy a solid future tomorrow.

Now I am not averse to stepping into the ring and teaching a lesson to someone like Brad Armstrong. I hope that he paid close attention to Professor Precious Paul Ellering, because lessons like I taught him are valuable, as well as being few and far between.

But a sustained offensive on a world title would take a great deal of time and effort in order to execute it correctly. That is why I noted that I would need a manager like myself in order to become champion. He would have to assume many of the duties of guiding The Legion of Doom, under my oversight and guidance, of course.

But minds like mine only come along once in a generation. The likelihood of discovering another individual with a similar mastery of both wrestling and Wall Street is a one in a million prospect.

So until those odds are satisfied, the wrestling world will have to be content to see me enter the ring on rare occasions, and to continue to guide my Road Warriors to victory after victory—and to tag team wrestling immortality. □

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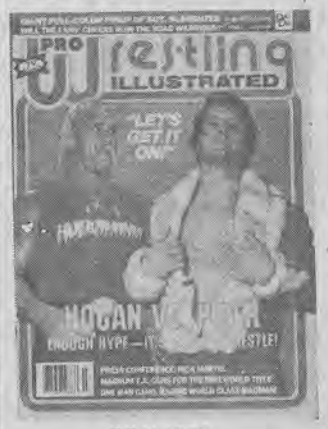

JULY 1985

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

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October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

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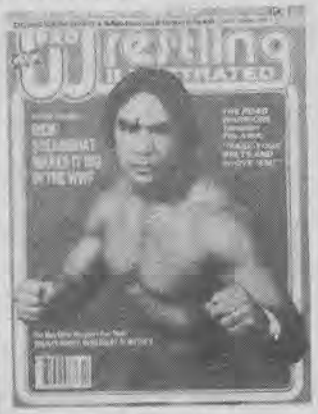

OCTOBER 1985

October 1985/COLOR POSTER: Chris Adams. Cover story: Steamboat. PLUS: Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR POSTER: Randy Savage. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR POSTER: Jesse Ventura. Cover story: Great American Bash. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Duggan. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Magnum T.A., Brody, Gagne.

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SLAUGHTER

(Continued from page 43)

across from him. McDaniel the rule-breaker was a different man from the hero most people had known for so long. This man was a creature of unbridled hatred, consumed by a fury that even he only vaguely understood. Warring against the injustices he feels wrestling has bestowed upon him, McDaniel forsook the best of himself to satisfy his demands for a revenge against wrestling and fate itself. Slaughter knew all this and knew he could get as dirty as McDaniel.

That's what scared Sgt. Slaughter most of all. Not too long ago, he was one of the most hated rulebreakers in the world. It took a great deal of soul-searching and sacrifice for him to join the ranks of fan favorite. It scared him to think about returning to the ugly maneuvers of his past. He also knew if any match could force his rage to dominate, this would be the one.

The bell rang. McDaniel seemed to purposely wish to goad Slaughter into rulebreaking. Within five minutes, McDaniel brutally executed some of the most savage maneuvers ever seen in a wrestling ring. It was a horrific display. While Slaughter managed to counter the moves effectively, the battering was taking its toll on the man. Though physically his body must have been screaming in pain, that wasn't where Slaughter's real agony lay. The old rage was welling up inside him, demanding to be let loose. Everything McDaniel did was designed to goad the rage further.

Finally, the rage took over. Slaughter and McDaniel battled in a furious exchange of savage tactics. It was an ugly match to watch. A great wrestling match is an intense and intimate physical argument. This was an exchange of physical insults meant to wound. After 10 minutes, it became obvious there could be no winner to this sickening confrontation.

Justly, the match ended in a double-disqualification. When Slaughter left the ring, he looked heartbroken. Strangely enough, so did McDaniel.

Though blood is flowing into his eyes, McDaniel can still see the mighty right hand of Sgt. Slaughter about to reach his head (above). Slaughter pulls Wahoo out of the ring, where he will inflict more punishment (below). The match would ultimately be ruled a double-disqualification.

Weeks later, McDaniel announced he was going to Florida. Days before, he'd lost his U.S. title to Magnum T.A. in a match most fans thought Wahoo wrestled in lacklusterly. His heart wasn't in it. When he made his announcement that he was going to Florida, he also wanted it known he wished to once again try to become a fan favorite. Though he didn't say so, many people believe the ugliness and horror of his match against Sgt. Slaughter forced Wahoo to confront the man he had become. What he saw he hated.

When Sgt. Slaughter heard of Wahoo's transformation, he was elated. "I'm also relieved," he admitted, "that something decent came of that horrible match. I don't think I've ever been so ashamed of any battle in my life. Yet from it sprang my greatest achievement: I straightened out Wahoo McDaniel. It's nice to know something so good could come from something so bad." □

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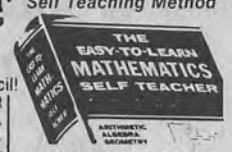

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Rhodes-Piper

(Continued from page 27)

Dusty Rhodes can see I'm succeeding. I have more money than any other wrestler. I have more victories. I have wrestlers to battle for me. I don't have to strain myself, I don't have to waste my energy. I *prepare*. I examine all the options. I emerge from the ring victorious. That's why I control Georgia wrestling. Everyone says I'm the most important person in Georgia wrestling—more important than the champion, the referee, the commissioners. They're right. I am!

"I welcome a challenge from Dusty Rhodes. It's the only way I can drive him out of wrestling once and for all. In fact, I've already got him another job. I've already sold him to a tugboat captain to use as a barge."

It came as no surprise when Roddy Piper put a $5,000 bounty on Rhodes. He also took every opportunity he had to wrestle Dusty. The matches were ugly, brutal, and little or nothing to do with any civilized concept of sport. These were brawls intended to cripple. In a twisted way, it is a credit to both men that they survived these encounters.

At least, they've survived so far. Piper is still the controlling influence on Georgia wrestling. He seems able to call the shots, maneuver the matches, and order about a corps of renegade grapplers. It has been a brilliant and seemingly successful campaign. At his present rate, by this time next year, Roddy Piper should be the czar of Georgia professional wrestling. Any scientific grappler would be smart to

leave the area. One shudders to consider the fate of any scientific wrestler more brave than smart.

The only person who can put a stop to Piper's dreams of empire is Dusty Rhodes. The odds are against him. Piper has done too well to be stopped by anyone less than a hero. If Georgia wrestling will continue to be a beacon of integrity in wrestling, it will be the heroics of Rhodes that will save it.

So once again, Dusty Rhodes rides to the rescue. But this is life, not a Hollywood western. Dusty knows better than anyone that come sundown, the agony of his battered body might be telling him why he failed for keeps. □

Piper's mouth drops open from the pain of Rhodes' armtwist. Dusty's goal, of course, is to shut Piper's mouth. And he feels the best way to do that is to beat him so badly, he will depart in embarrassment.

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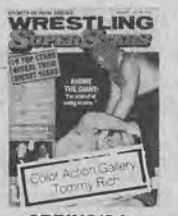

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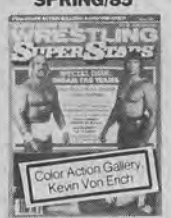

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Introduction

(Continued from page 6)

that have gone on in professional wrestling over the past three years. Imagine this match taking place today!

When our May 1985 issue reported on "Kerry Von Erich & Billy Jack Haynes: The Dream Team For Wrestling May Be A Nightmare For The Von Erichs!" (page 28), there was serious speculation that Kerry and Billy would be forming a permanent tag team. There was also speculation that should that have happened, Kevin and Mike Von Erich would have found themselves living in Billy's shadow, and serious trouble would have erupted in the World Class area. Thankfully, that trouble within wrestling's first family never developed.

Barry Windham (then known as Blackjack Mulligan Jr.) rocks John Studd with a right cross.

Speaking of families, there seems to be no family in wrestling closer than the Mulligans—or the Windhams, depending on which name you choose! Fans are familiar with the fact that Barry Windham is Blackjack Mulligan's son, but they may not be familiar with the fact that at one time Barry actually *wanted* his father to become a rulebreaker. "Blackjack Mulligan Jr.'s Own Story:

(Continued on page 60)

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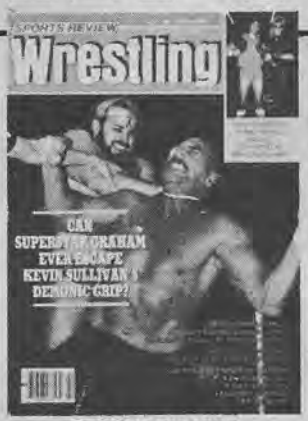

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August 1979/Cover story: Bruno-Koloff. PLUS: Flair, Orndorff, Funk.

September 1979/Cover story: Flair-McDaniel. PLUS: Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Cover story: Rhodes-Funk. PLUS: Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

April 1980/Cover stories: Andre, Mulligan-Studd. PLUS: LeDuc, Lawler, Ladd.

May 1980/Cover stories: Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler. PLUS: Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Cover stories: Graham, Patera. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Cover story: Bruno-Graham. PLUS: Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Cover story: Hogan. PLUS: Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Cover story: Morales-Fuji. PLUS: Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

March 1981/Cover story: SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Poll

April 1981/Cover story: Atlas. PLUS: Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

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September 1981/Cover story: Backlund-Mosca. PLUS: Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

October 1981/Cover stories: Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen. PLUS: Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Cover story: Rhodes-DiBiase. PLUS: Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Cover story: Muraco-Morales. PLUS: Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Cover stories: Valentine, Brisco-Funk. PLUS: Steele, Flair, Hayes.

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May 1982/Cover story: Rich-Flair. PLUS: Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

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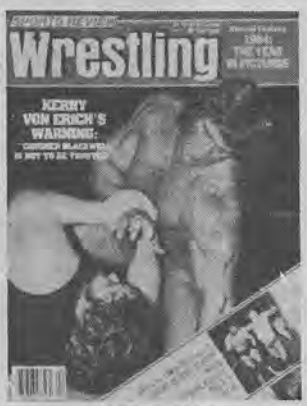

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October 1983/Cover stories: Martel-Valentine, Mulligan. PLUS: Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

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April 1984/Cover stories: Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki. PLUS: Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/Cover stories: LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins. PLUS: The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Cover stories: Windham-Flair, Gilbert. PLUS: Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

August 1984/Cover stories: Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes. PLUS: Zbyszko, Von Erich, The Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

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December 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Gilbert, Martel. PLUS: Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class action weekend.

January 1985/Cover stories: Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund. PLUS: Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*.

February 1985/Cover stories: Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts. PLUS: Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Cover story: Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs. PLUS: 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

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Introduction

(Continued from page 58)

Precious Paul Ellering and The Road Warriors leave the ring after a successful defense of the AWA title. Read about the match that first netted them that prestigious title, beginning on page 39.

'I Begged My Father To Turn Bad!' " (page 32) will recount a situation that is as shocking today to look back on as it was when it was first presented in our June 1982 edition.

The Road Warriors have become the most potent force on the tag team wrestling scene, and one of the truly significant days in their careers was when they won the AWA World tag team title from Crusher and Baron Von Raschke. First presented in our January 1985 issue, "Awesome Destruction: The Road Warriors Power To Their First World Title!" (page 39) aptly recounts the glory and celebration of that very significant day.

Sgt. Slaughter has built his career on defending the rights of America, but one of his greatest days came when he forced the turnaround in attitude of a native American, Wahoo McDaniel. Originally presented in our August 1985 issue, "Sgt. Slaughter's Proudest Achievement: 'I Straightened Out Wahoo McDaniel!' " (page 42) fills you in on all the details of this remarkable and important accomplishment.

In the June 1985 *PWI,* we printed a story that examined "Hulk Hogan vs. Nikolai Volkoff: Exclusive Coverage Of The Hulkster's Toughest Title Match" (page 44). In retrospect, Volkoff might well have made a grave error: Had he continued his campaign against Hogan, he might today be the WWF World heavyweight champion.

Also in this issue you'll find a "Ratings Analysis" (page 65) that rates valets and announcers, two pages of "Official Wrestling Ratings" (page 66), two pages of your mail in "The Last Word" (page 68), and a roundup of the latest news in wrestling as of press time in "Ringside: Update" (page 70).

Of course, we're sure you'll enjoy the four full-color pinups of Rick Steamboat, Gino Hernandez, Sgt. Slaughter, and Magnum T.A. They're sure to be the highlight of any bulletin board or poster collection!

We're hoping that you'll enjoy this issue of *PWI Annual,* and that you'll come back in three months when the Summer 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual* goes on sale.

Oh, and by the way—happy holidays, and a very, very happy new year! □

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- ☐ ANNUAL/Win 82
- ☐ ANNUAL/Spr 83
- ☐ ANNUAL/Sum 83
- ☐ ANNUAL/Fall 83
- ☐ ANNUAL/Win 83
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Ringside Update

(Continued from page 70)

While we are gone—and I hope I am speaking clearly enough for every birdbrain in the country to understand—while we are gone, I suggest that Michael Hayes discover religion, move to the Kiwi Islands, and become a missionary. Because Animal and I are not fooling around this time. We are the World tag team champions. We do not take to other people interfering in our livelihoods.

"Garvin and Regal are worms. They shall be stormed over. Anyone who thinks those two could even make us breathe hard is drunk. Our problem is not with them. Our problem is The Freebirds, and our problem now becomes their problem. The entire wrestling world can do without those long-haired freaks. We are just trying to figure out which limbs of theirs to break."

Warriors' manager Precious Paul Ellering delivered this ominous warning to all 'Bird watchers: "The Freebirds are now officially an endangered species. After my team and I return from Japan, we will sit for a week in my basement and plan what our modus operandi will be. Let me make this perfectly clear: The Freebirds will be put out of wrestling. Anyone familiar with The Road Warriors knows that this is not an idle boast. We have the ability to put anyone at anytime into the hospital, but we have shown compassion. In the case of these Freebirds, we have misplaced our compassion. They are facing rigor mortis."

UPDATE: DALLAS, TEXAS

Mike Von Erich, looking gaunt and pale but walking under his own power, was greeted by a rousing standing ovation by his fans when he appeared at the recent Cotton Bowl show in Dallas.

Von Erich, whose miraculous recovery from toxic shock syndrome stood the medical world on its ear, spoke to the crowd of 25,000-plus, saying that he was "grateful for all the attention, all the concern, and all the prayers," and that "without everyone's help he couldn't have made it."

Although his weight had reportedly dropped to 140 pounds, Von Erich promised everyone that he would be back in the ring in the near future. "I'm determined now more than ever to return and succeed in the ring," he said, fighting back tears. "With so many good people behind me, there is no way I can fail."

Mike Von Erich, who weighed only about 140 pounds following his remarkable recovery from toxic shock syndrome, poses at the Cotton Bowl.

Von Erich's recovery was enhanced moments later when his brothers defeated their hated rivals Gino Hernandez and Chris Adams in a hair vs. hair match. As he watched Kerry and Kevin shave the their beaten opponents bald, Mike Von Erich said, "I miss it so much, so very, very much. I'm going to work harder than I ever have. I'll be back. I'll be back and better than ever." □

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THIS MONTH IN...

Inside Wrestling

The volcano rumbles as **RICK STEAMBOAT** takes on **MAGNIFICENT MURACO**—will this feud lead to uncontrollable violence?

As **IVAN KOLOFF** and **KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV** battle **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**, we must ask: Are the R&Rs speeding to disaster?

PLUS . . .

Learn all about the courageous fight for life waged by **MIKE VON ERICH** against toxic shock syndrome . . . "Hotseat" interview with **JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS** . . . It's time for **THE ROAD WARRIORS** to fire **PAUL ELLERING** . . . Ellering and **JIM CORNETTE** face off "One on One"

All this and much more . . .
in the January 1986 issue of
Inside Wrestling

ON SALE NOW!

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

KEVIN VON ERICH writes about **MIKE VON ERICH'S** recent battle for life, and presents a very personal view of his family's long struggle with tragedy

THE ROAD WARRIORS delight in the joy of sadism as they invite you to their smorgasbord of violence!

PLUS . . .

A spectacular FULL-COLOR centerfold poster of **NIKITA KOLOFF** . . . **TITO SANTANA:** The WWF's *fighting* champion! . . . Is **THE BARBARIAN** stronger than **BUTCH REED**? . . . **TERRY TAYLOR** is interviewed on an exclusive "Press Conference"

All this and much more . . .
in the February 1986 issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

ON SALE NOVEMBER 19

RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

A look at some unusual ratings categories: It seemed like a good idea at the time, so we went ahead and did it. Lets take a look at two categories of ratings that normally would never be rated at all.

● **Valets:** In this category we present a listing of the top five valets based wholly on subjective concerns. Since valets are generally frivolous luxuries to a wrestler, the criteria for rating them are also frivolous: impact on the sport as well as personal appearance and style count for much more than the won-loss record of the person they attend to. As with the manager category, weights and home towns are eliminated in favor of naming the individual or individuals the valet serves. Honorable mentions, by the way, go to Rip Rogers' Brenda Britton and Johnny Tatum's new valet Missy. We won't even discuss Kevin Sullivan's women!

Baby Doll

VALETS
1—BABY DOLL
Tully Blanchard
2—SUNSHINE
Scott Casey, Kabuki
3—PRECIOUS
Jim Garvin
4—MISS ELIZABETH
Randy Savage
5—MISS LINDA
Exotic Adrian Street

● **Announcers:** There are very good wrestling announcers and there are very bad wrestling announcers, and good reasons for any person being one or the other. The top 10 we've included here are ranked on the basis of several criteria.

First and foremost of those criteria is knowledge. An analyst of match action should be knowledgable enough to recognize that a particular wrestler has various strengths and weaknesses, and should recognize when those strengths and weaknesses come into play. The announcer should also know that the wrestler has a history of competition behind him. Several WWF announcers, for example, are notorious for ignoring the past of a wrestler who has just entered the region.

Other important criteria include delivery (how smoothly an individual speaks on the air, and how understandable the words are that he is saying), analysis (tying together diverse elements both of a wrestler's history and of current events in his career to provide a perspective on the individual), and objectivity (an announcer should not be overly partial to either popular or hated wrestlers).

Beneath each announcer's name we've included the area or areas for which they do commentary. No distinction is made between blow-by-blow or color commentators, as most wrestling announcers tend to do double duty in this area.

Tony Schiavone

Ken Resnick

ANNOUNCERS TOP 10
1—JESSE VENTURA
World Wrestling Federation
2—TONY SCHIAVONE
World Championship Wrestling
3—GORDON SOLIE
Florida & Continental areas
4—JIM ROSS
Mid-South Wrestling
5—JOEL WATTS
Mid-South Wrestling
6—MARK LOWRENCE
World Class Wrestling
7—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
World Wrestling Federation
8—LANCE RUSSELL
Mid-Southern Wrestling
9—KEN RESNICK
American Wrestling Association
10—BILL MERCER
World Class Wrestling

Hello, goodbye: This issue marks the first month that the Southwest area, also known as Continental Championship Wrestling, has been represented in our ratings system. Ranked under the heading "Continental," this category is now a permanent addition to our ratings system, replacing the "Missouri" ratings area. The number one position in the Continental ratings each month will automatically go to the Southeast Continental champion, who presently is Tommy Rich. By the way, from time to time we will continue to take a look at the Missouri rankings in a section of "Ratings Analysis."

The address for mail: Don't forget—we always want to read your comments on our ratings and on "Ratings Analysis." Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual;* Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York 11570. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

T.V. SPORTS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.

Dusty Rhodes

TOP10

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

4—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

5—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

6—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX

7—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL

8—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

9—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia

10—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 1 contenders to AWA World tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 524 pounds

3—GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 511 pounds

4—JIM GARVIN & STEVE REGAL
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 473 pounds

5—OLE & ARN ANDERSON
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 525 pounds

6—AL PEREZ & WENDELL COOLEY
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 451 pounds

7—RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds

8—CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ
World Class tag team champions
Combined weight: 454 pounds

9—STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds

10—WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 505 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

2—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

3—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL

4—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

5—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN

6—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia

7—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

8—BUTCH REED
265, Kansas City, MO

9—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX

10—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC

2—LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA

3—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL

4—MICHAEL HAYES
255, Marietta, GA

5—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

6—BORIS ZUKHOV
254, Leningrad, Russia

7—SCOTT HALL
281, Tampa, FL

8—GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN

9—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN

10—BUCK ZUMHOFE
222, Hamburg, MN

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX

2—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HA

3—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

4—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

5—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

6—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL

7—TERRY FUNK
247, Amarillo, TX

8—ANDRE THE GIANT
505, Grenoble, France

9—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA

10—KING KONG BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

2—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL

3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

4—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia

5—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

6—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

7—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY

8—MANNY FERNANDEZ
245, El Paso, TX

9—SAM HOUSTON
218, Waco, TX

10—KONGA THE BARBARIAN
265, Chicago

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WORLD CLASS

1—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO
2—BRIAN ADIDAS
238, Denton, TX
3—BRUISER BRODY
284, Albuquerque, NM
4—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
5—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
6—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
7—KABUKI
252, Singapore
8—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
9—ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL
10—KILLER BROOKS
235, Lancaster, TX
~~220. Tonga~~
10—JESSE VENTURA
270, Muscle Beach, CA

MID-SOUTH

1—BUTCH REED
265, Kansas City, MO
2—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
3—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
4—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA
5—HUMONGOUS
318, parts unknown
6—THE BARBARIAN
316, parts unknown
7—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK
8—BUZZ SAWYER
240, St. Petersburg, FL
9—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL
10—DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX

FLORIDA

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
2—KENDELL WINDHAM
220, Sweetwater, TX
3—KEVIN SULLIVAN
239, Boston, MA
4—BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR
5—MIKE GRAHAM
229, Tampa, FL
6—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Minneapolis, MN
7—BOB ROOP
273, Tampa, FL
8—BUGSY McGRAW
268, New York, NY
9—JACK HART
230, St. Petersburg, FL
10—HECTOR GUERRERO
243, Mexico

MID-SOUTHERN

1—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
2—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
3—KOKO WARE
229, Union City, TN
4—MONGOLIAN STOMPER
259, Mongolia
5—PHIL HICKERSON
238, Jackson, TN
6—TARRUS BALBA
237, Outer Mongolia
7—BOTA
270, Maori Islands
8—TOJO YAMAMOTO
230, Tokyo, Japan
9—LORD JONATHAN BOYD
255, Aucklund, New Zealand
10—RIP MORGAN
250, Auklund, New Zealand

CONTINENTAL

1—TOMMY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN
2—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
227, South Wales
3—THE FLAME
305, parts unknown
4—JIMMY GOLDEN
234, Montgomery, AL
5—ROBERTO SOTO
231, San Juan, Puerto Rico
6—ROBERT FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN
7—BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA
8—RON FULLER
285, Dyresburg, AL
9—BILL ASH
224, Paris, AK
10—ROY WELCH
224, Tampa, FL

NORTHWEST

1—RICKY VAUGHN
245, Tampa, FL
2—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
3—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS
4—ALEXIS SMIRNOFF
255, Russia
5—TIMOTHY FLOWERS
245, New York, NY
6—JOE SAVOLDI
232, Parsippany, NJ
7—STEVE SIMPSON
220, Africa
8—CHRIS COLT
230, San Fransisco, CA
9—MOONDOG MORETTI
245, Boise, ID
10—SCOTT DORING
270, Minneapolis, MN

MOST POPULAR

1—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
5—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
6—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
7—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
8—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
9—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
10—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX

MOST HATED

1—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
2—RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland
3—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI
4—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
5—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
6—NIKITA KOLOFF
276, Moscow, Russia
7—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
8—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
9—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
10—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

For period ended October 16, 1985

THE LAST WORD

Got a comment or point of view you want to share with other readers? Send your letters to:

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GOOD GRADES FOR SCOUTING REPORTS

The Winter '85 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual* outdid itself. The scouting report feature is perhaps the only real analysis available anywhere in any wrestling publication. Certainly we are not ever going to get legitimate criticism from television commentators, as these men are paid to cheerlead the fan favorites and condemn the rulebreakers. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* gives its readers an objective analysis of wrestling, and for that reason alone it is the sport's best magazine anywhere. I note further that the editors changed Magnum T.A.'s report, which originally accused him of possessing no credible finishing maneuver and amended it to read that he possesses no alternate finishing maneuver. A magazine that is not afraid to admit its mistakes and change is a magazine that I want. I can't wait for *PWI's* year-end issue. Keep up the great work.

FRAZIER ST. MARKS
New York

Although Magnum T.A. employs a great variety of moves and countermoves, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* failed to recognize his brilliant belly-to-belly suplex during its original scouting report. Frazier St. Marks was pleased to see *PWI* correct its error.

WRESTLING IS FUN TO WATCH

The "I hate/I love the WWF" controversy is getting out of hand. Recent letters to (and editorials in) *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* and its sister publications have criticized WWF policy, promotion, announcing; in short, anything with a WWF label on it.

Displaying a degree of objectivity much higher than most national newspapers and magazines, however, your magazines have allowed WWF fans a forum to present their views. Indeed, you have even adhered to the will of the majority and now list Hulk Hogan as a world Champion (although I believe that the decision went against the grain of most of your staff).

Uncle Elmer and Joyce Staszko are pronounced husband and wife at a wedding ceremony in the ring at New Jersey's Meadowlands Arena seen nationally on NBC's *Saturday Night's Main Event.*

I happen to love professional wrestling. I've been a fan for years. I like the WWF, the NWA, the AWA, and anything else I can pick up on the networks, in syndication, or on cable. Would I like to see Hogan wrestle a scientific challenger? Sure, but I'd also like to see Major League Baseball either put a designated hitter in both leagues or do away with it. I can't change policy in either the WWF or baseball, but I still watch both.

Does Vince McMahon Jr. go overboard on the media hype? Of course he does. But, remember, he's a businessman, and he's cleaning up. He's engineered the first network wrestling telecast in 30 years and raised wrestling to a point in the national consciousness. Is he any more media-conscious than "Broadway" Joe Namath was in his heyday? Are his stars

Reader Gretchen Siebel was very insulted by a letter concerning Kamala in the Winter 1985 edition ("Feed The World"). Not only was the letter-writer insensitive to the plight of the starving in Ethopia, Gretchen writes, but he greatly underestimated the abilities of the Ugandan Giant.

any less flamboyant than Muhammad Ali, Walt "Clyde" Frazier, or Reggie Jackson? If Mark Breland, the Olympic boxing champion, can appear in a Pointer Sisters video, than why can't WWF wrestlers appear with Cyndi Lauper?

So the WWF stars goof off, have pie fights, act ridiculous: so what? Don't we all on occasion? In the ring they're all business. I've seen National Hockey League players joke around while playing softball for charity? It was a blast!

So you don't like Gene Okerlund. Well, I'll admit he's no Gordon Solie, but he's light years ahead of David Crockett, who can't say much more than "Watch 'em, Tony Schiavone, watch 'em, watch 'em, watch 'em!" So Hulk Hogan only wrestles rulebreakers, is only an average scientific wrestler, and relies mostly on power to win matches. Well, he's never intentionally disqualified himself to keep his title, like Ric Flair.

The point I'm trying to make is that there is good and bad in every pro wrestling organization and all of this finger-pointing and name-calling is detrimental to the sport. Just because I like the New York Yankees doesn't mean I'm going to make fun of the Mets' announcers. That's cheap, petty, and demeaning. I will continue to enjoy the WWF and NWA regardless of their respective faults. Let's all enjoy professional wrestling and stop knocking the other guy.

ANTHOHY G. MARSHALL
East Northport, NY

WANTS MORE BEEF

I was very insulted by Sandy Stafford's letter in the Winter '85 edition of *PWA*, in which she described Kamala as a "callous, corpulent slob" and suggested that he be cut up into quarter-pound patties to feed Ethiopia. First of all, the famine in Africa is no joking matter and I see this Stafford as having about as much sensitivity as a moray eel. Second, I'm tired of everyone always dumping on Kamala. He is one of the most fearless wrestlers in the world today and deserves to be recognized as such. No one else wrestles the top contenders as often as Kamala, and if it weren't for his penchant for disqualification, I'm sure he would have a world title by now.

GRETCHEN SIEBEL
Rye, NY

SPEEDY RECOVERY

I saw Mike Von Erich make his first public appearance since his illness recently, in the Cotton Bowl, and although he couldn't have weighed more than 150 pounds, we here in Texas are confident that he'll be back in grand Von Erich fashion before you can say Ewing Oil. The Von Erichs have inspired a whole generation of fans with their good nature and kind words. The reason Mike's recovery has gone so well is because God watches over those who keep and spread the faith. I wish Mike and his family the best of luck and all of my love.

KIMMY SUE JOHNSON
Laredo, TX □

RINGSIDE Update

With Bill Apter

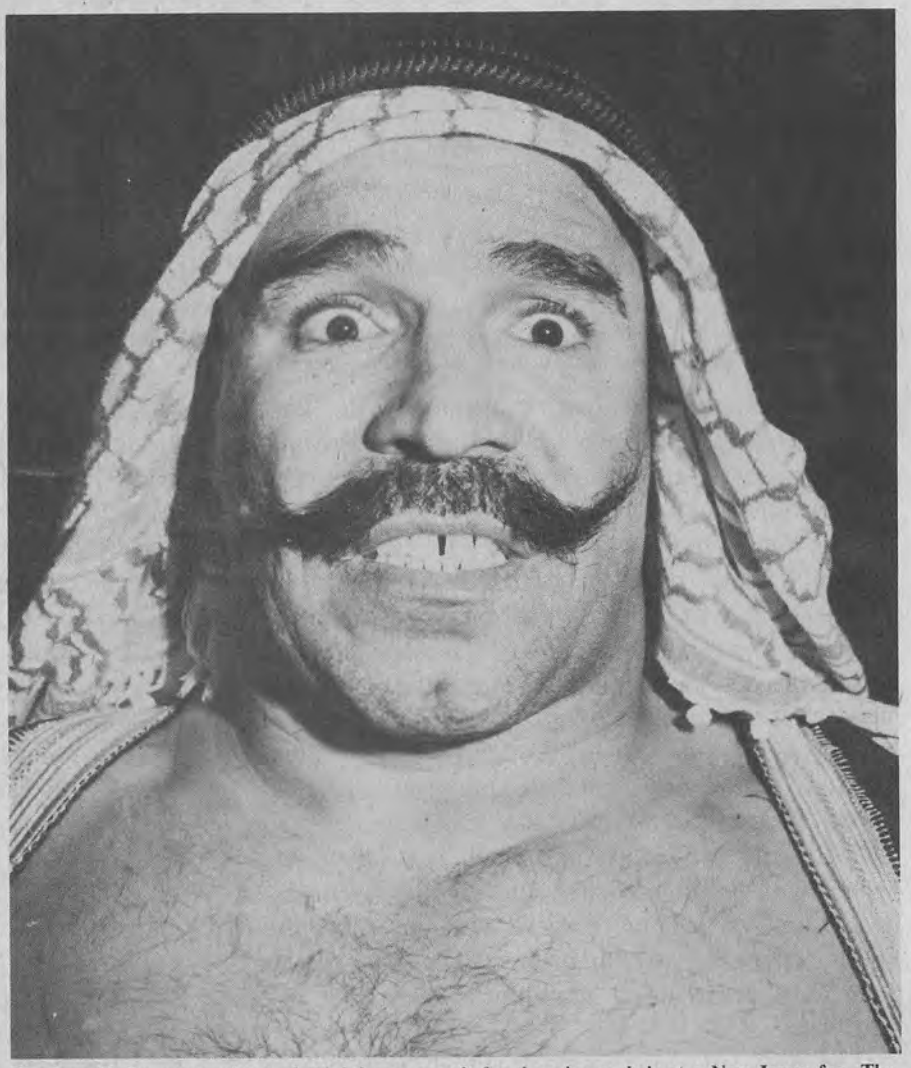
UPDATE:
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The WWF has suffered tremendous embarrassment by a series of legal entanglements involving its wrestlers.

First it was Ken Patera, who, along with the AWA's Mr. Saito, was convicted of several assault charges stemming from a fight with police officers. Patera is serving between six months and two years, depending upon his behavior.

Next to appear on the court calendar was The Iron Sheik, who was convicted of third-degree assault for throwing a chair at a Wanaque, New Jersey, man following a match at West Milford High School. The Sheik's appeal for entrance into the Passaic County pretrial intervention program had been denied before the start of the trial.

Finally, there is the incident that occurred recently in Pittsburgh. The Pennsylvania Athletic Commission has suspended Paul Orndorff and Cowboy Bob Orton for their "unprofessional" conduct during a recent match at the Civic Arena. Orndorff threw five steel chairs into the ring where officials were standing, and Orton tossed a 14-foot wooden plank into the ring, said commisioner Richard Baer. Although no criminal charges were filed against the two men, officials let it be known that in the future such activity would prompt police action.



The Iron Sheik was convicted of third-degree assault for throwing a chair at a New Jersey fan. The Sheik received a fair trial, as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

UPDATE:
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Coming off their controversial match in St. Paul, where they lost the AWA belts to the duo of Steve Regal and Jim Garvin, The Road Warriors prepared for an extended tour of Japan and plotted their revenge against The Freebirds, the team they hold accountable for their loss.

"We're going to Japan right now to forget about the past month," said Road Warrior Hawk. "We're going to make a lot of money, mash lots of them little Japanese people, and relax.

(Continued on page 62)

Now, Even If You Have Been Thin For Years, You Can

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without dangerous drugs, without exercise, without unpleasant tasting medicines, MEN—an impressive manly body, WOMEN—a curvier, glamorous figure.

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If you are in doubt . . . even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

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VITAL NOTE

A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

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